



WARRIOR CATS

Redtail's Choice

ALRIGHT, MORNING PATROLS EVERYONE!



TIGERCLAW

LIONHEART

GRAB TWO
WARRIOR^S AND AN
APPRENTICE EACH.

TIGERCLAW, TAKE
SHADOWCLAN.

BE CAREFUL.

LIONHEART,
CHECK RIVERCLAN.

THEY'VE BEEN
PUSHING OUR BORDERS
WORSE AND WORSE
AS OF LATE.

WHITESTORM,
COULD YOU PLEASE COME
HUNTING WITH ME?

OF COURSE!



COME ON.
THERE'S A RABBIT
OVER HERE.

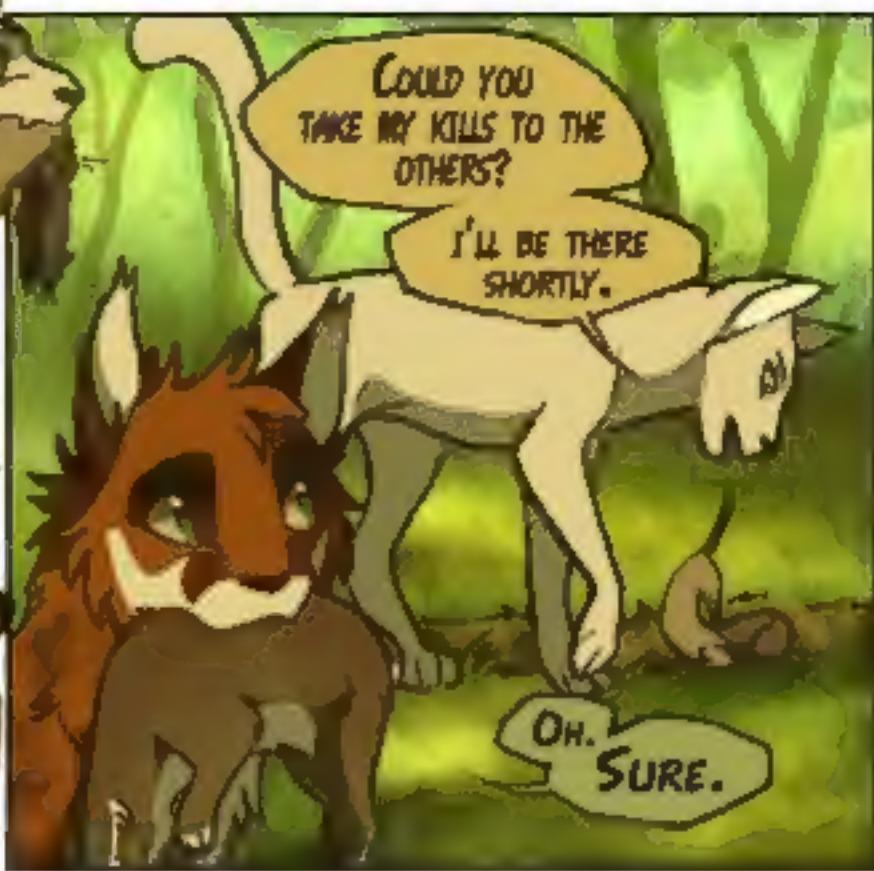
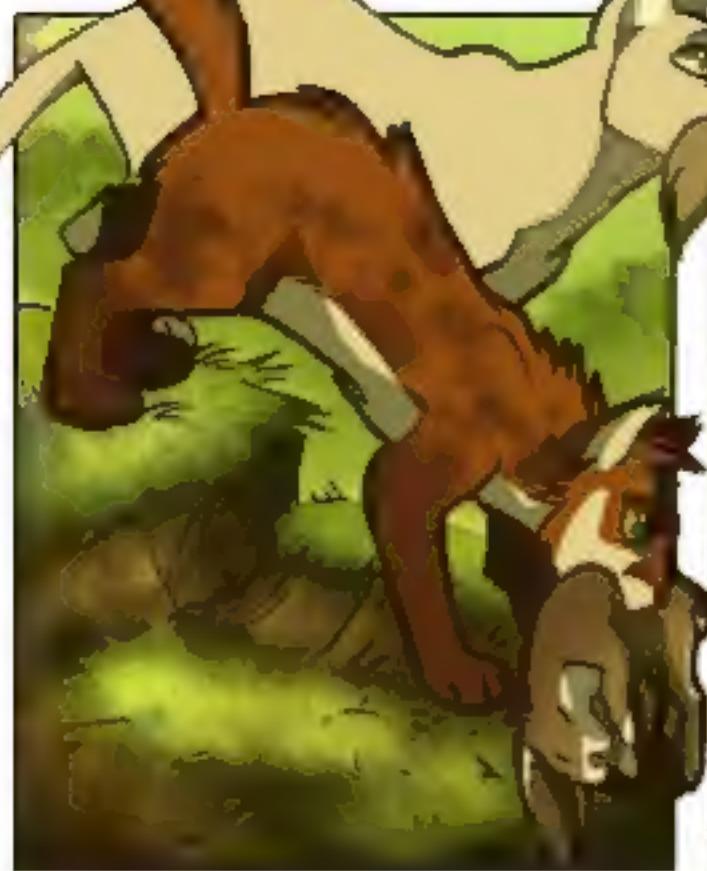
IF YOU
SAY SO.

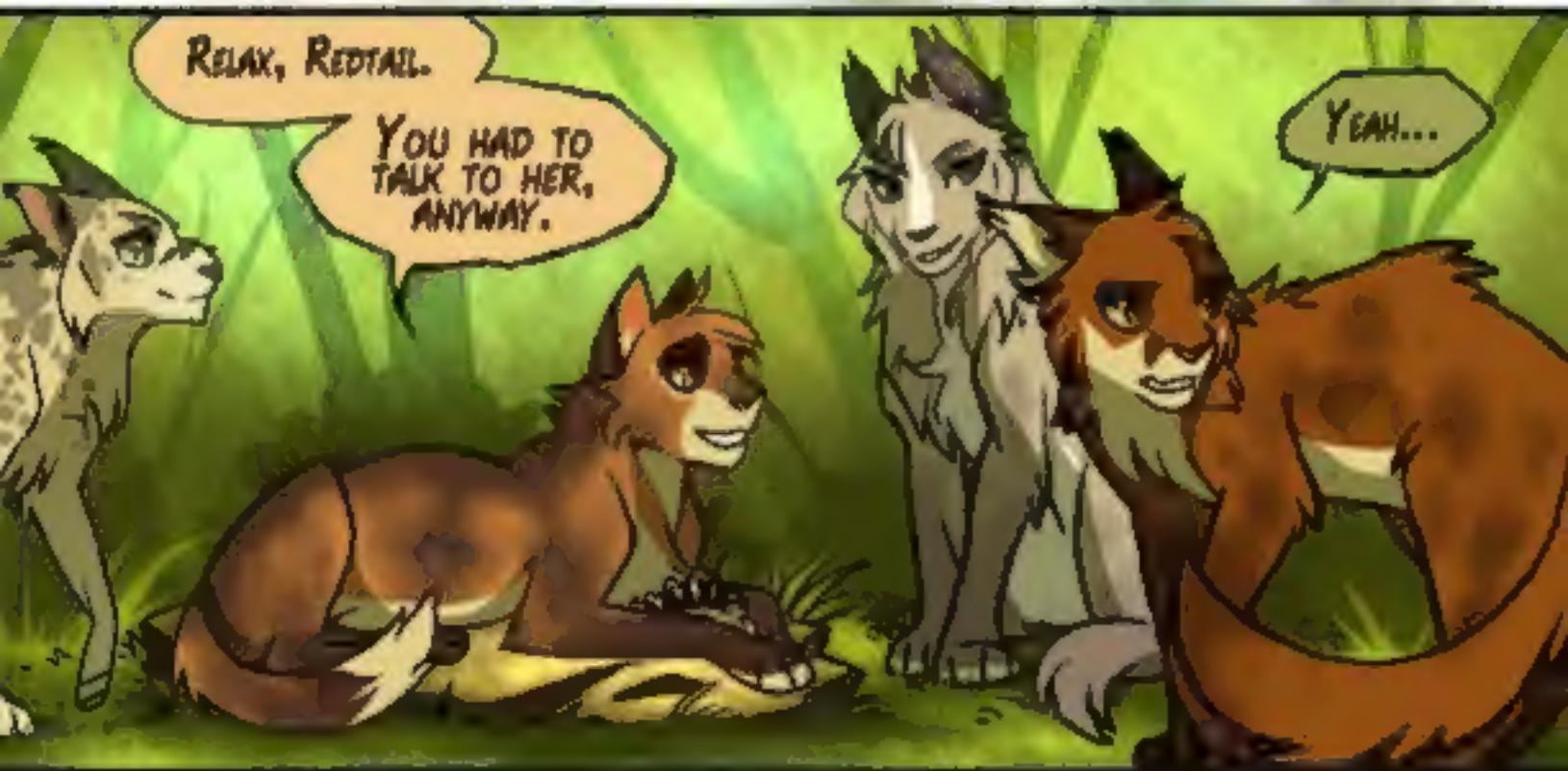
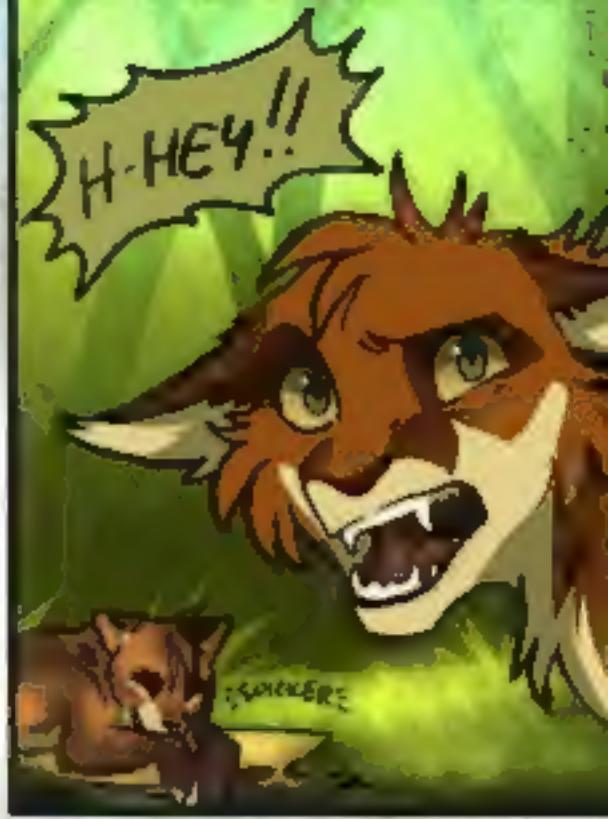
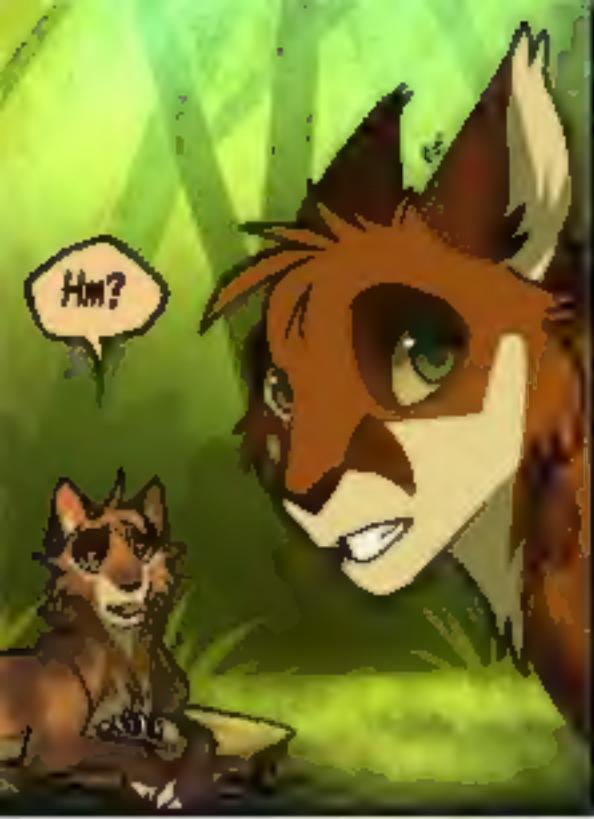
YOU'RE THE
DEPUTY.

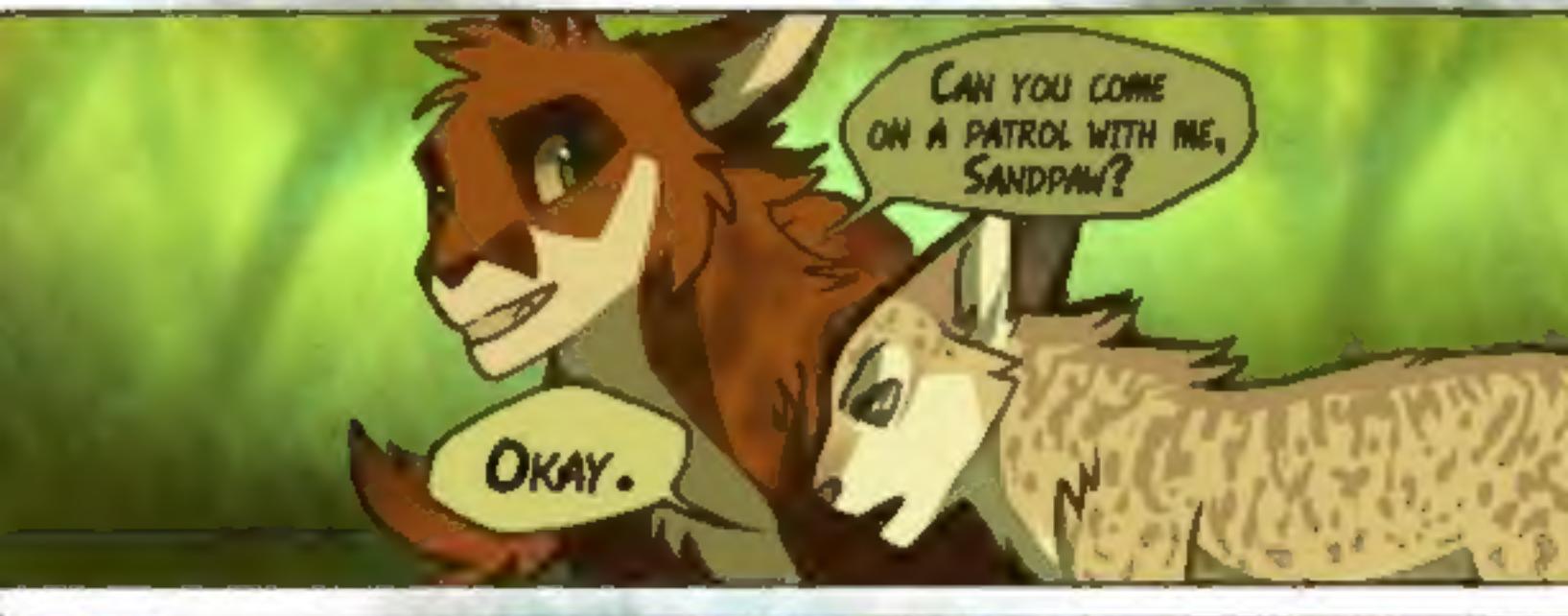
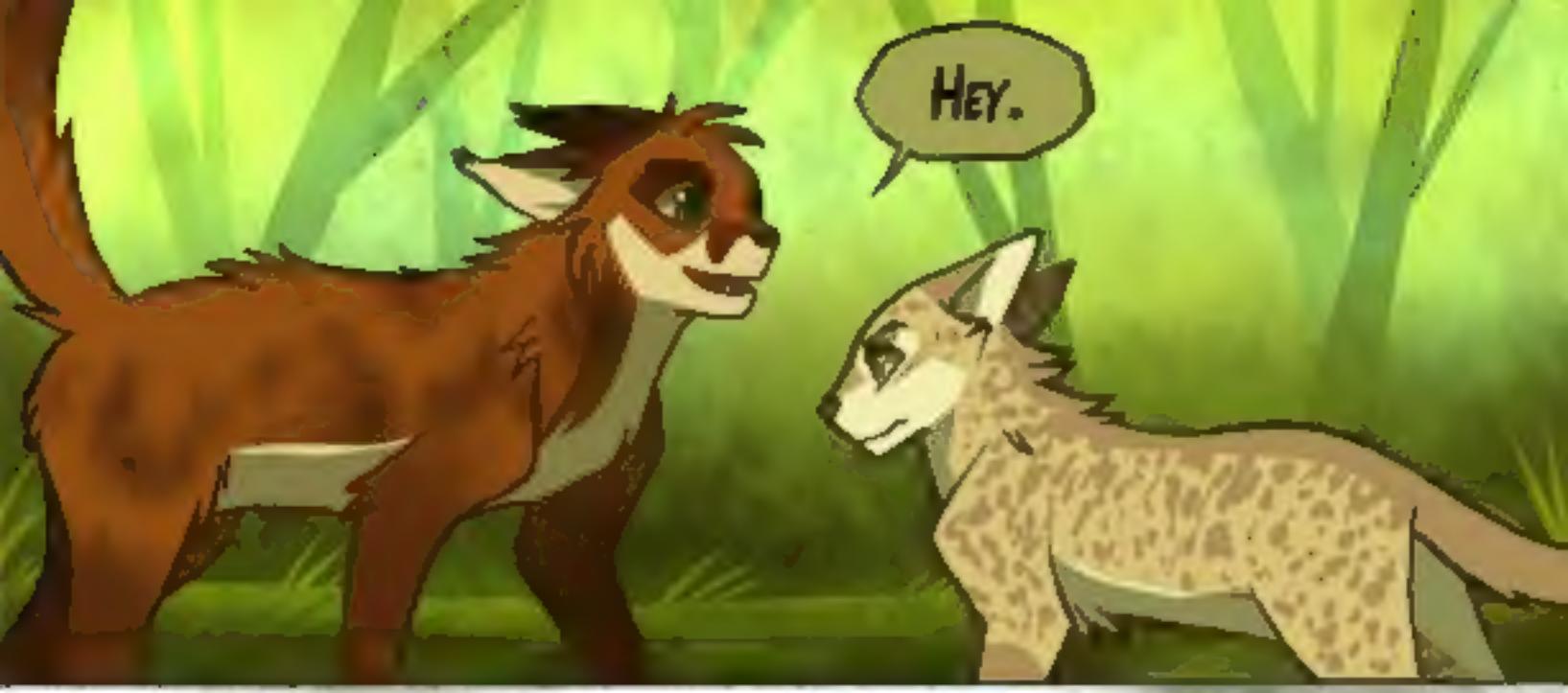
I DO.

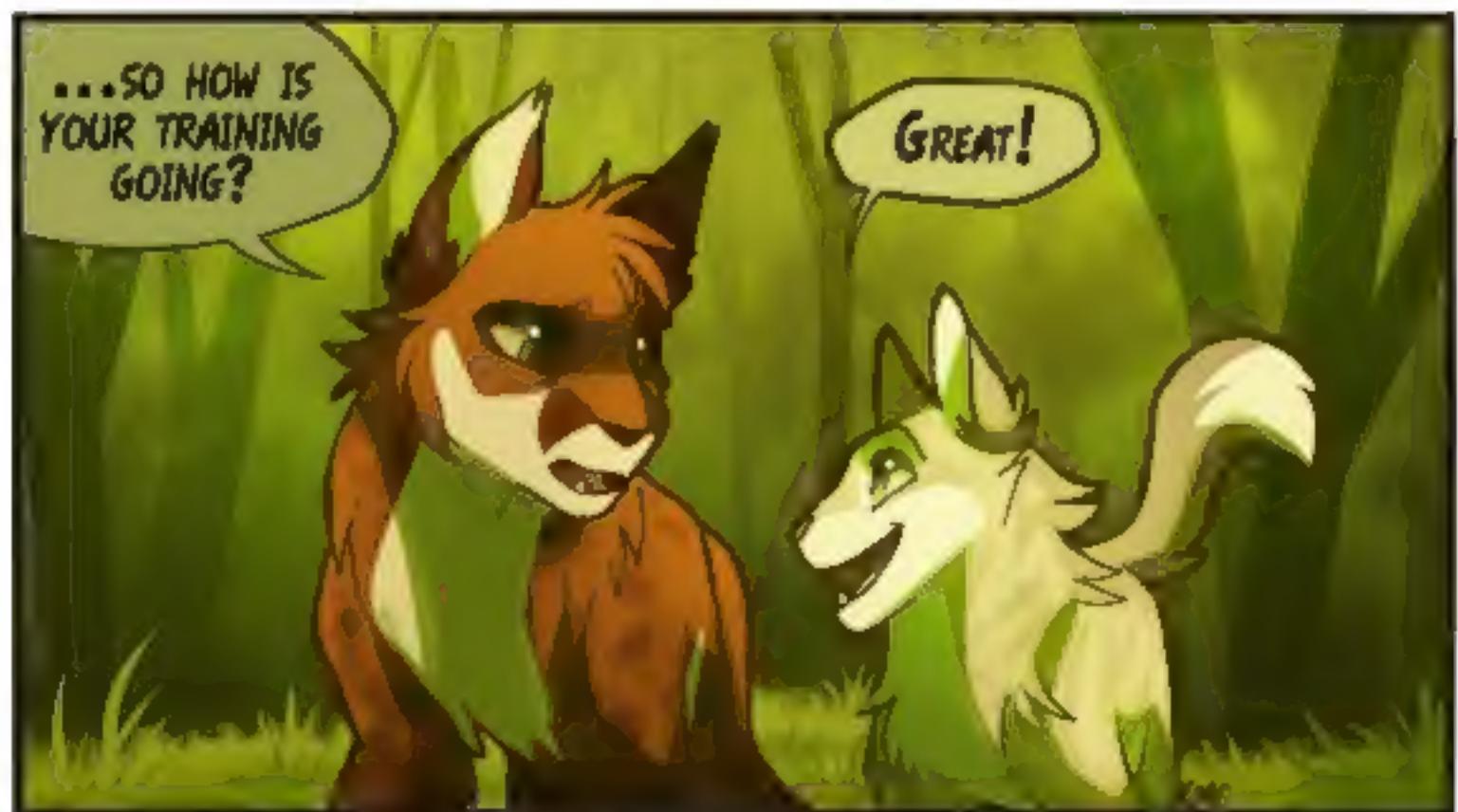
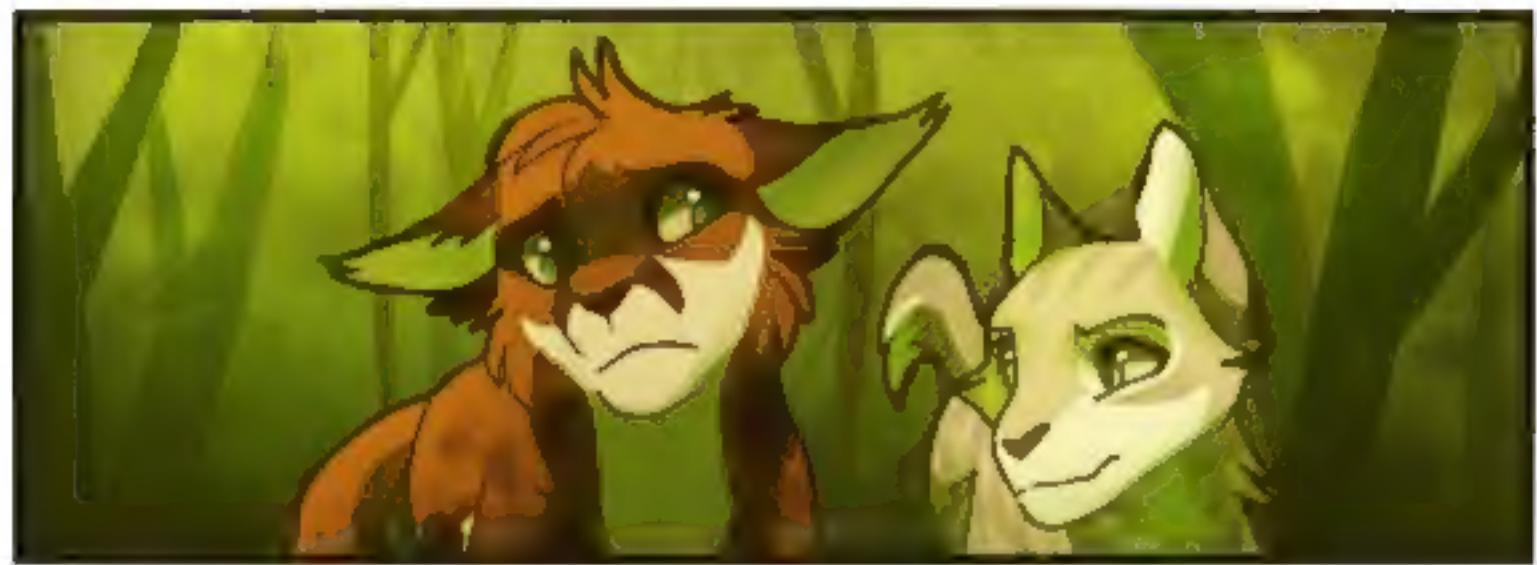
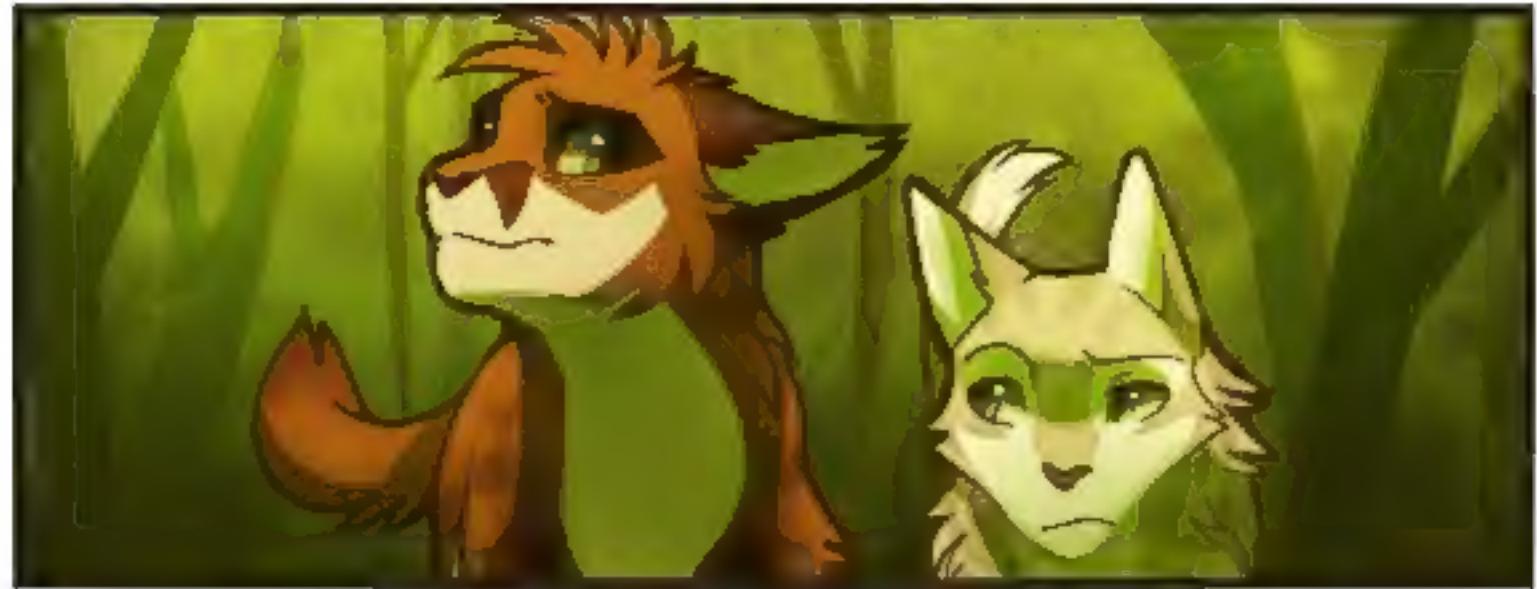
SHUT
UP.











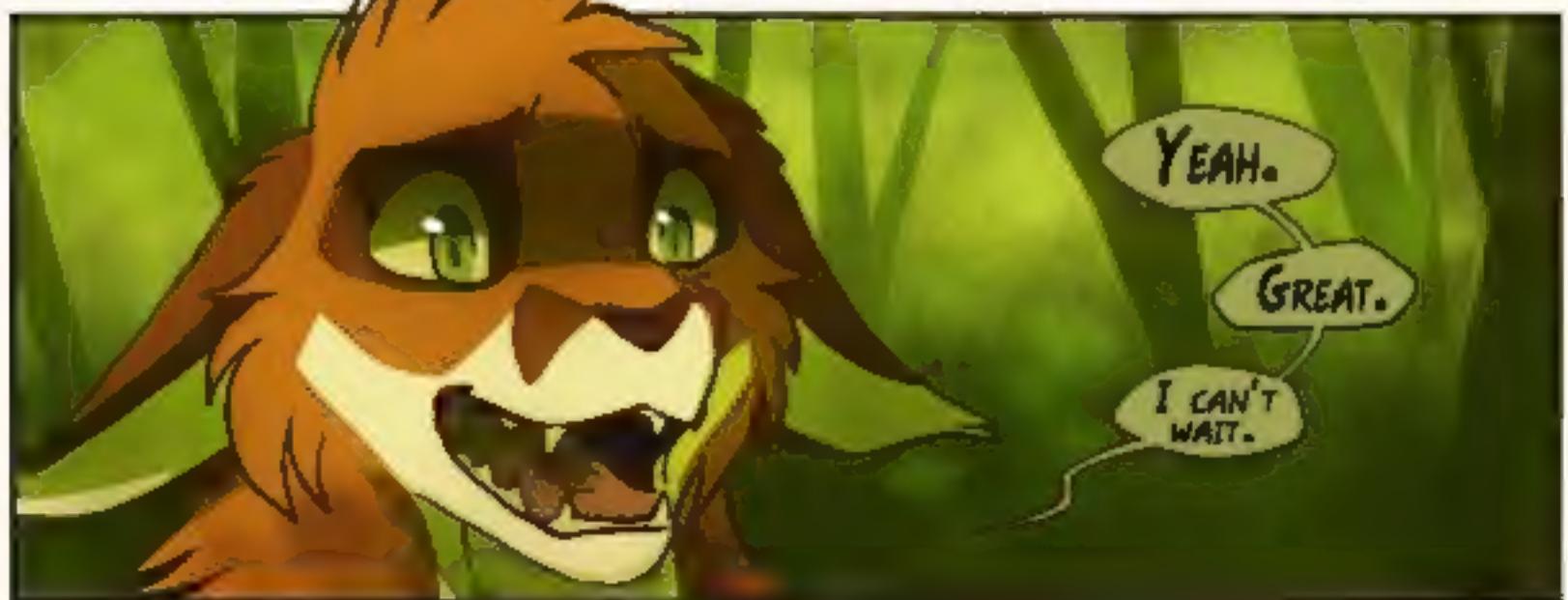
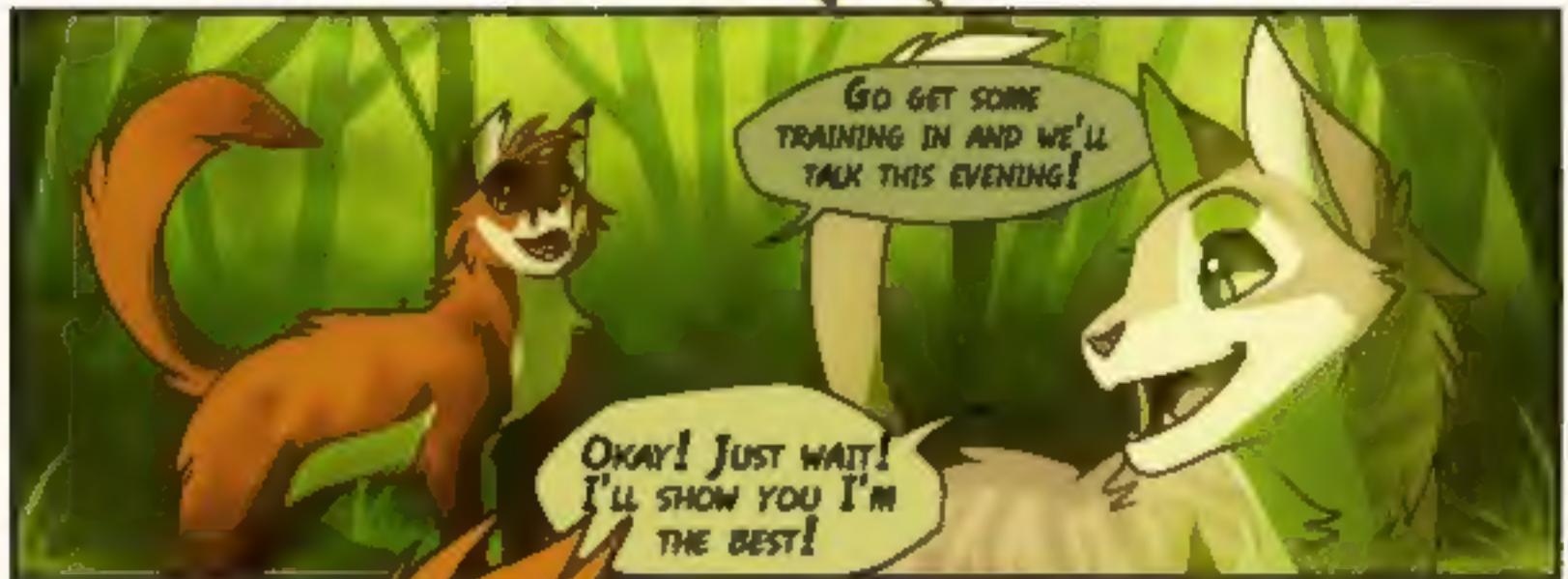
I'M LEARNING ALL KINDS OF STUFF! WHITESTORM'S ALREADY SHOWN ME HOW TO HUNT AND FIGHT!

I'LL BE THE BEST WARRIOR EVER!

HA, THAT'S GREAT....!

YEAH!!

SO YOU THINK
I'M READY FOR MY
ASSESSMENT?





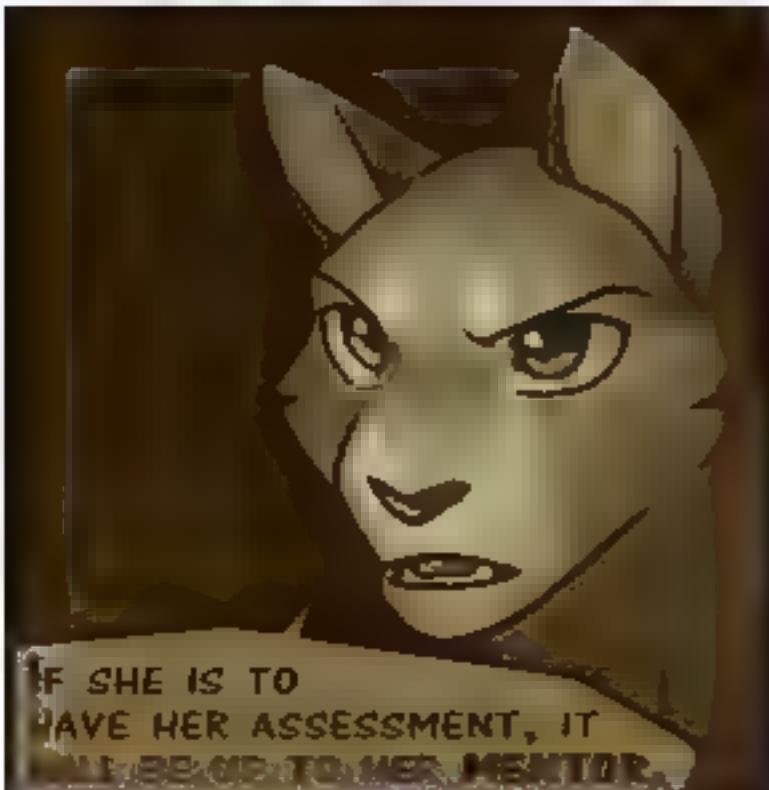
No.



YOU CANNOT
JUST INTERFERE IN SANDPAW'S
APPRENTICESHIP, REDTAIL.



NOT YOU.



IF SHE IS TO
HAVE HER ASSESSMENT, IT
WILL BE UP TO HER MENTOR.



I JUST
WANT TO MAKE
HER HAPPY...



I CAN'T JUST
MAKE AN EXCEPTION
FOR YOU.

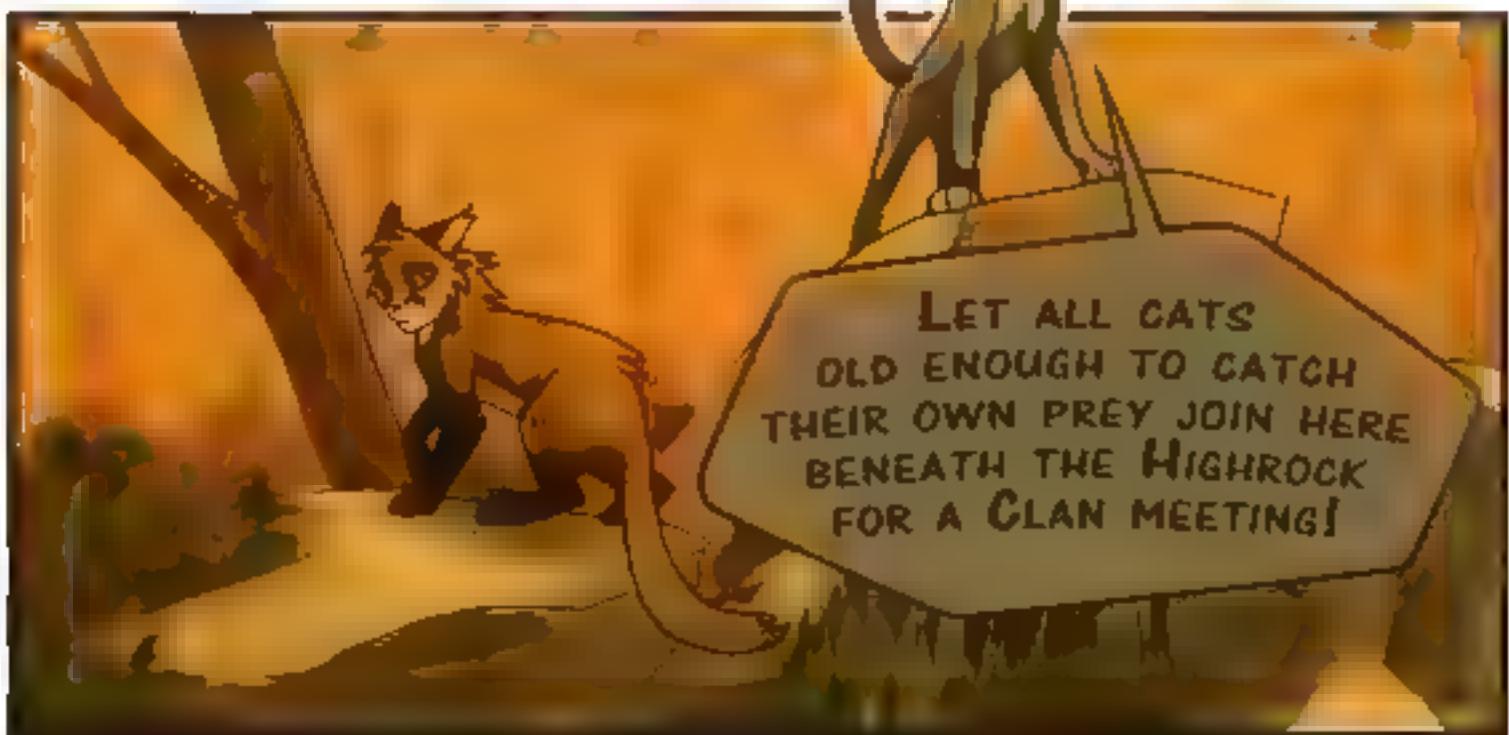
I KNOW,
I'M SORRY...

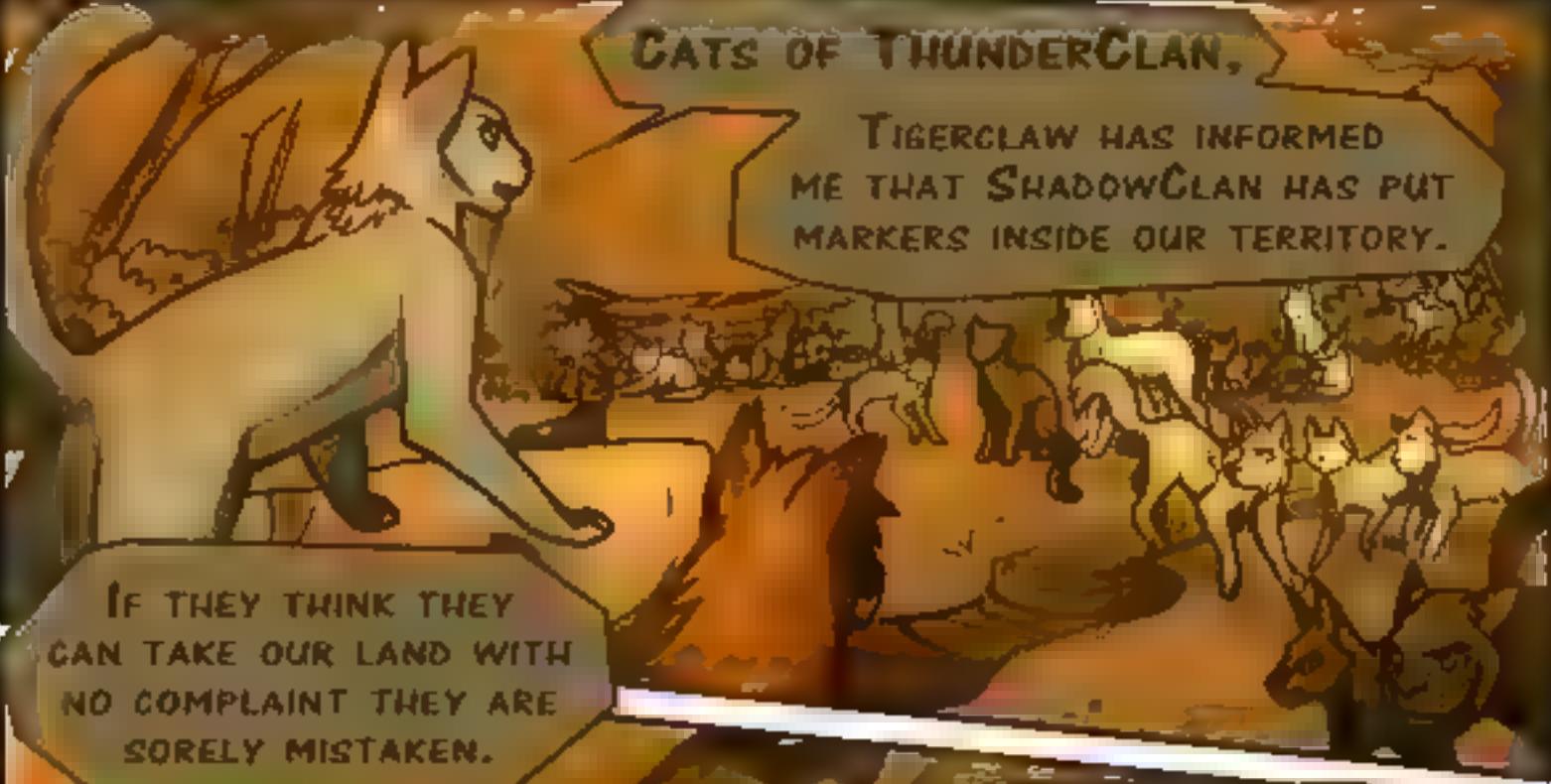


BLUESTAR!



WE'VE GOT
A PROBLEM.

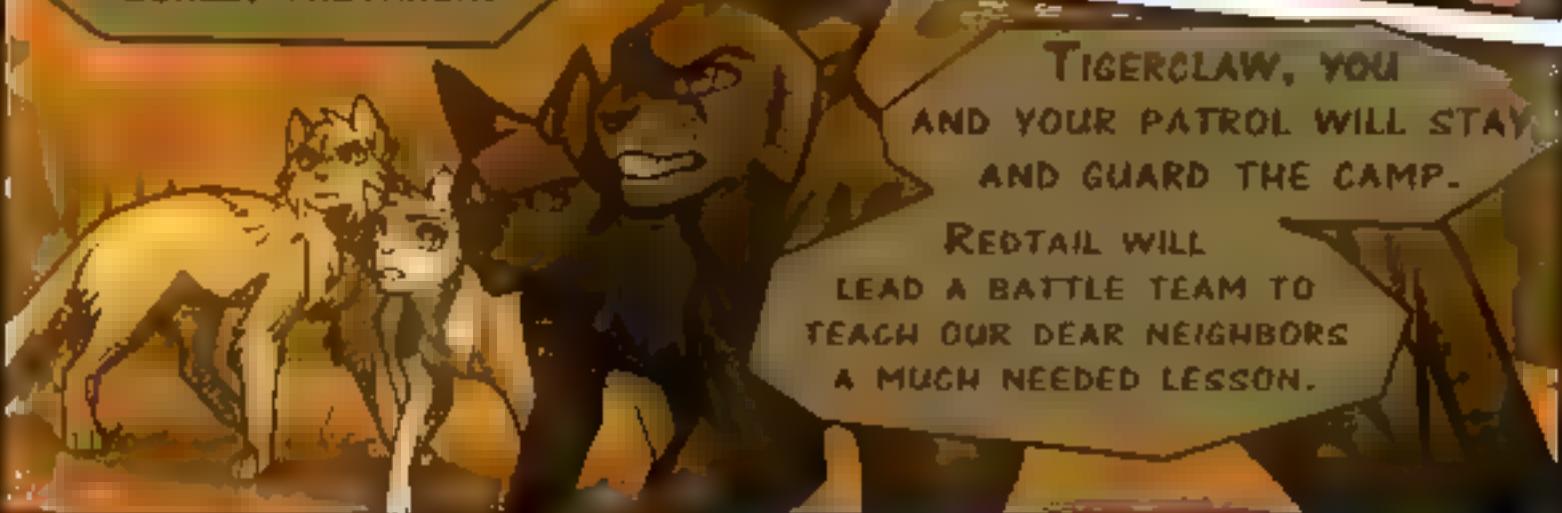




CATS OF THUNDERCLAN,

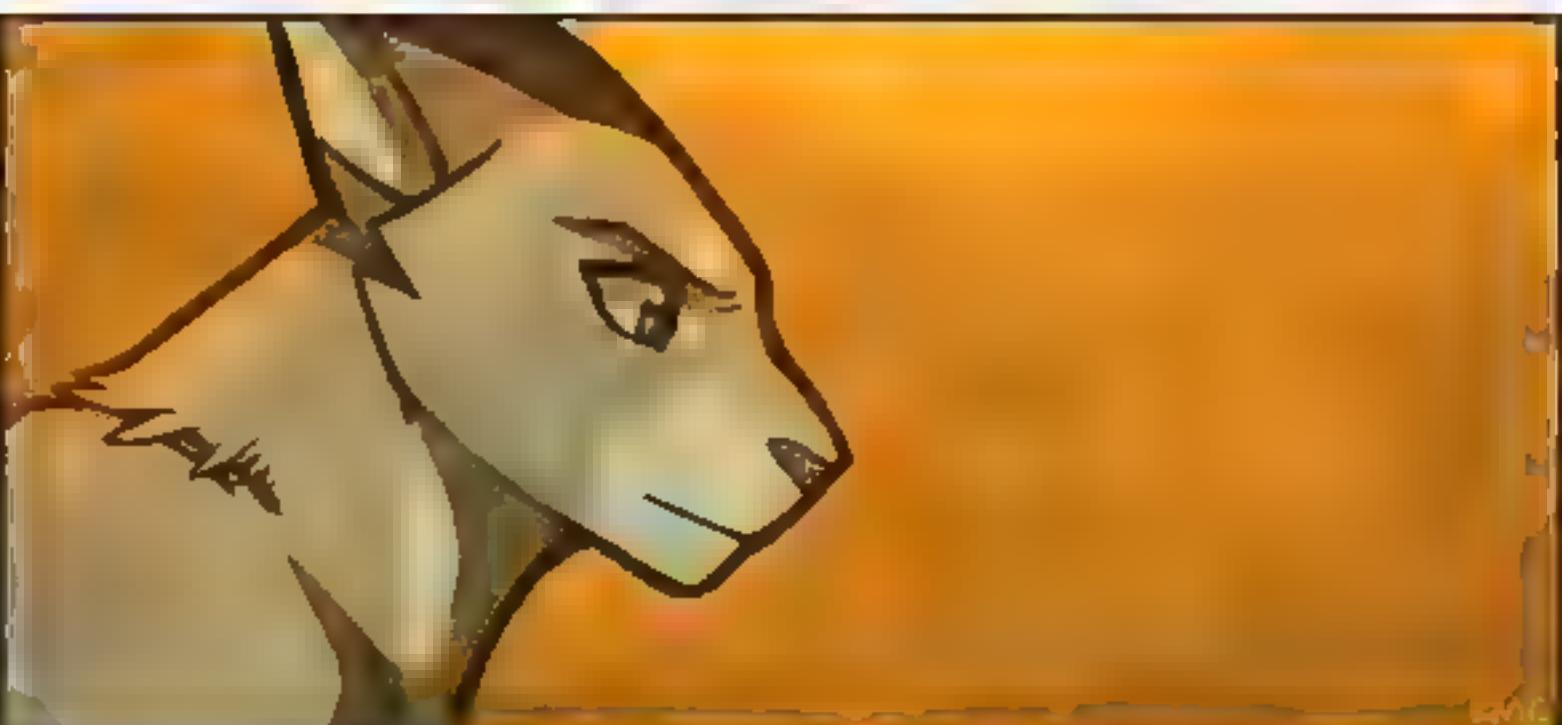
TIGERCLAW HAS INFORMED
ME THAT SHADOWCLAN HAS PUT
MARKERS INSIDE OUR TERRITORY.

IF THEY THINK THEY
CAN TAKE OUR LAND WITH
NO COMPLAINT THEY ARE
SORELY MISTAKEN.



TIGERCLAW, YOU
AND YOUR PATROL WILL STAY
AND GUARD THE CAMP.

REDTAIL WILL
LEAD A BATTLE TEAM TO
TEACH OUR DEAR NEIGHBORS
A MUCH NEEDED LESSON.



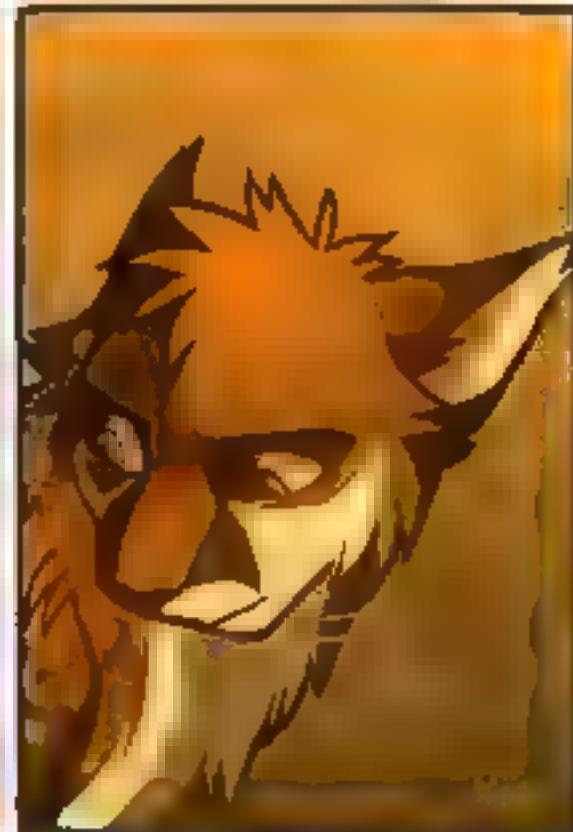
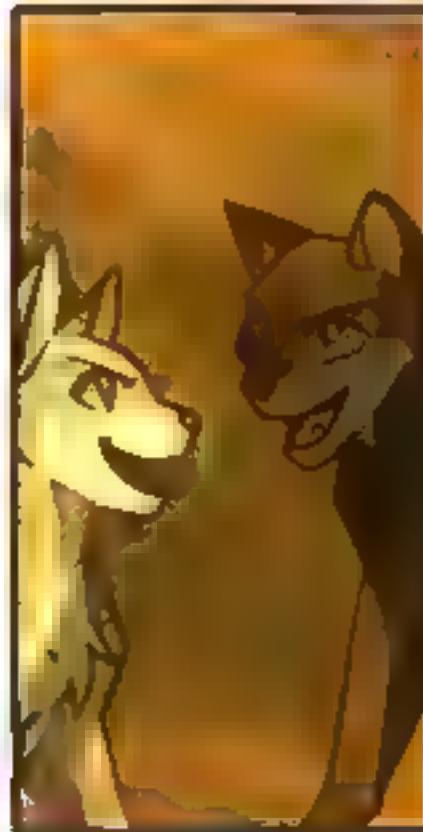
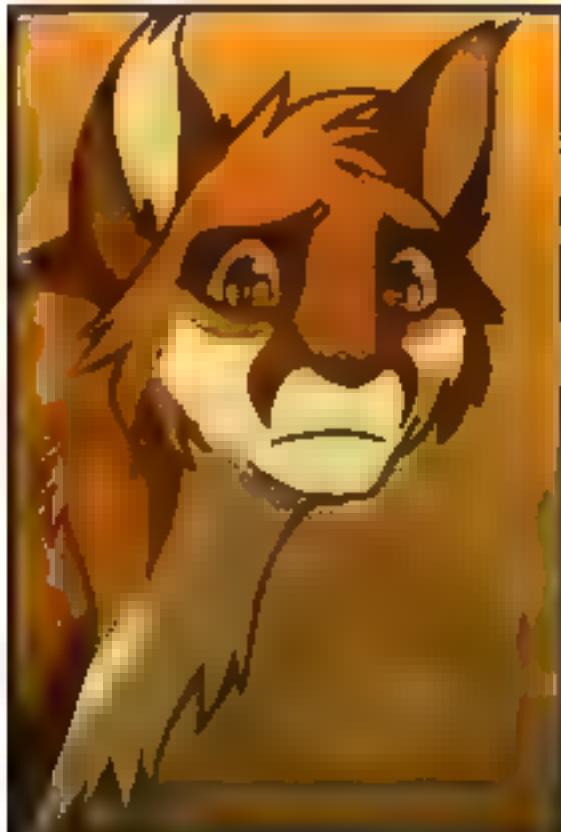
WHITESTORM

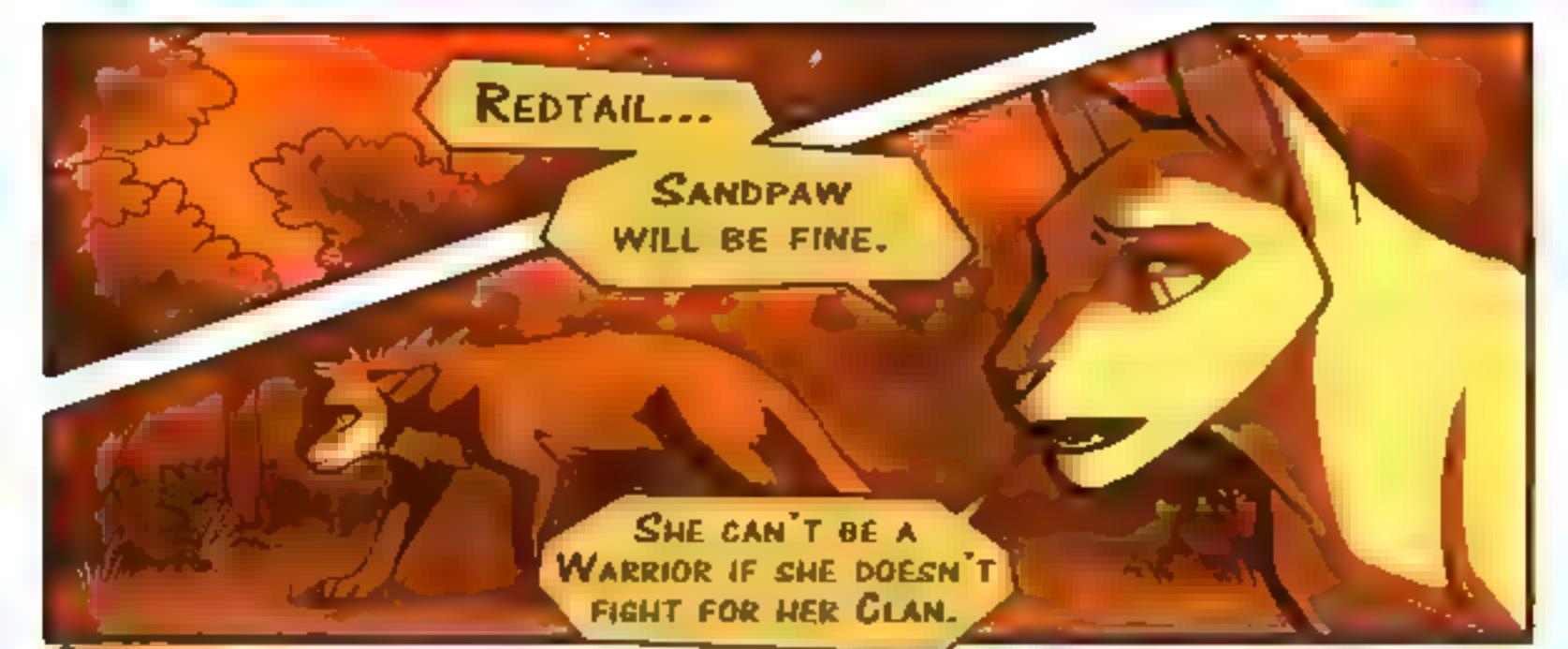
DO YOU THINK YOUR
APPRENTICE IS READY FOR
A BORDER SKIRMISH?

ABSOLUTELY.

MOUSEFUR,
LONGTAIL.

YOU WILL JOIN THEM.
WHITESTORM, YOU WILL COME ALONG
TO ASSESS SANDPAW'S SKILLS.





REDTAIL...

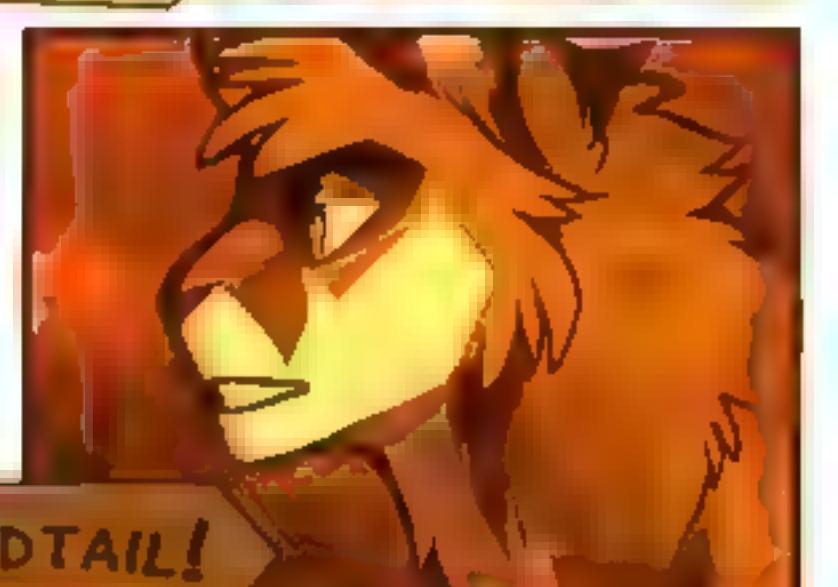
SANDPAW
WILL BE FINE.

SHE CAN'T BE A
WARRIOR IF SHE DOESN'T
FIGHT FOR HER CLAN.



I KNOW,
I KNOW...

I JUST DON'T--



REDTAIL!



WE'RE AT
THE BORDER.



Ugh!

I HATE THE
THUNDERPATH. HOW
DO TWOLEGS DEAL WITH
THAT STENCH?

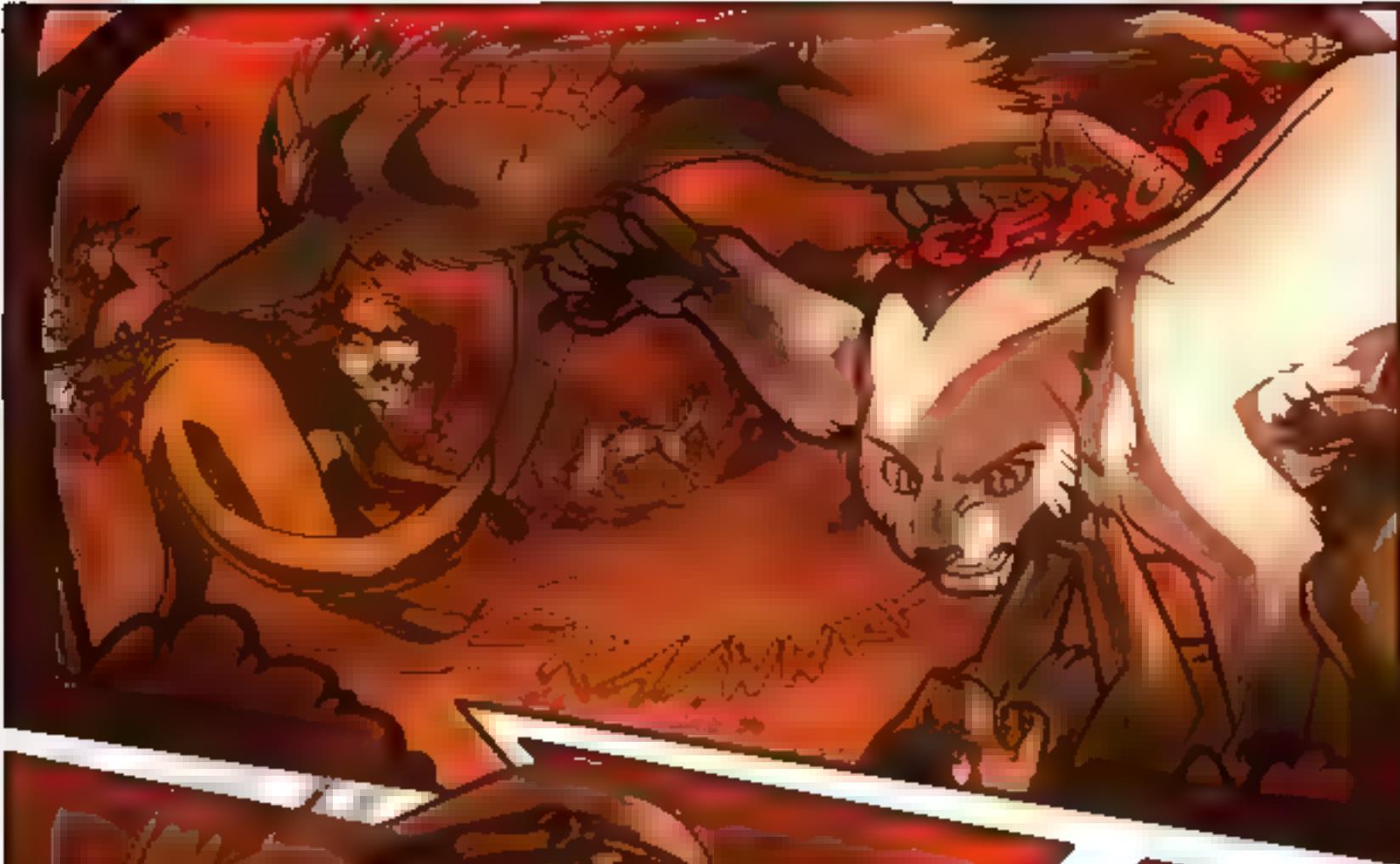
QUIET.

SHADOWCLAN
COULD BE WAITING
IN AMBUSH.

MONSTER
INCOMING.

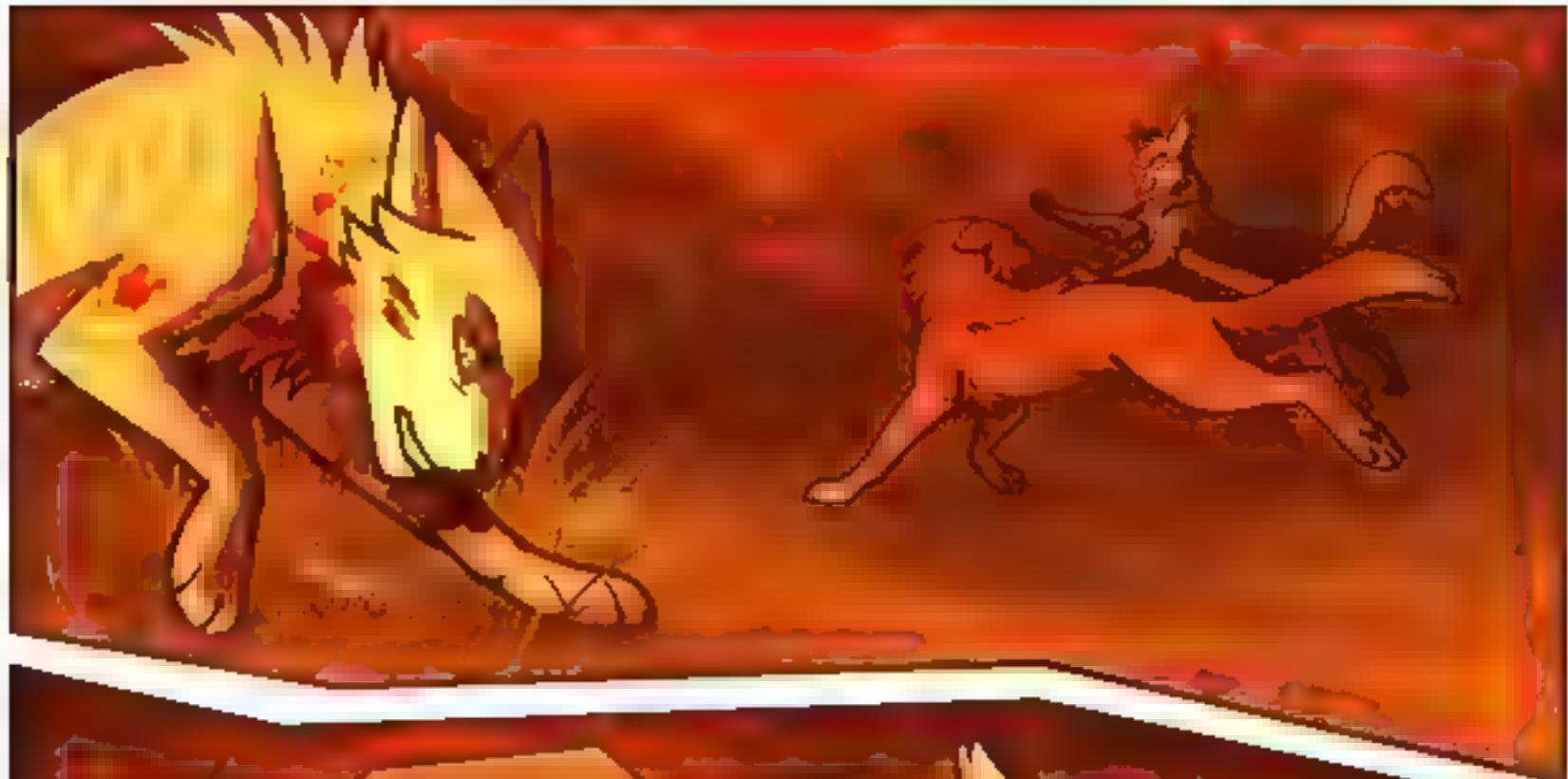


WARRIOR











REDTAIL.

BLACKFOOT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW
NOT TO PICK A FIGHT
YOU CANNOT WIN.

YOU'RE AWFUL
SHORT-SIGHTED.

I WAS JUST SENT TO
DELIVER A MESSAGE FOR
OUR DEAR NEIGHBORS.



OUR NEW DEPUTY'S GOT
HIS EYE ON YOUR LAND.

MAYBE IF YOU SURRENDER
PART OF YOUR TERRITORY, WE
WON'T HAVE TO TAKE ALL OF IT
BY FORCE.

APPARENTLY,
SHADOWCLAN HAVE LOST
THEIR RESPECT FOR THE
WARRIOR CODE.

TELL YOUR NEW DEPUTY
THAT SAME MERCY WILL NOT
APPLY TO HIM SHOULD HE
PUSH HIS LUCK.

BE GRATEFUL, FOR IT IS
THANKS TO THAT CODE THAT WE
ARE SPARING YOUR LIFE.

THUNDERCLAN
HAVE NOT.





I'M FINE,
MOUSEFUR.

LONGTAIL'S
PAW GOT PRETTY
MANGLED.

IS EVERYONE
AIRIGHT?



SANDPAW IS BADLY
INJURED, AS WELL.

IF LONGTAIL'S
FINE, I AM, TOO!



WE'LL LET
SPOTTEDLEAF DECIDE WHO
IS AND ISN'T "FINE".

MOUSEFUR, CAN
YOU HELP LONGBLAIR?

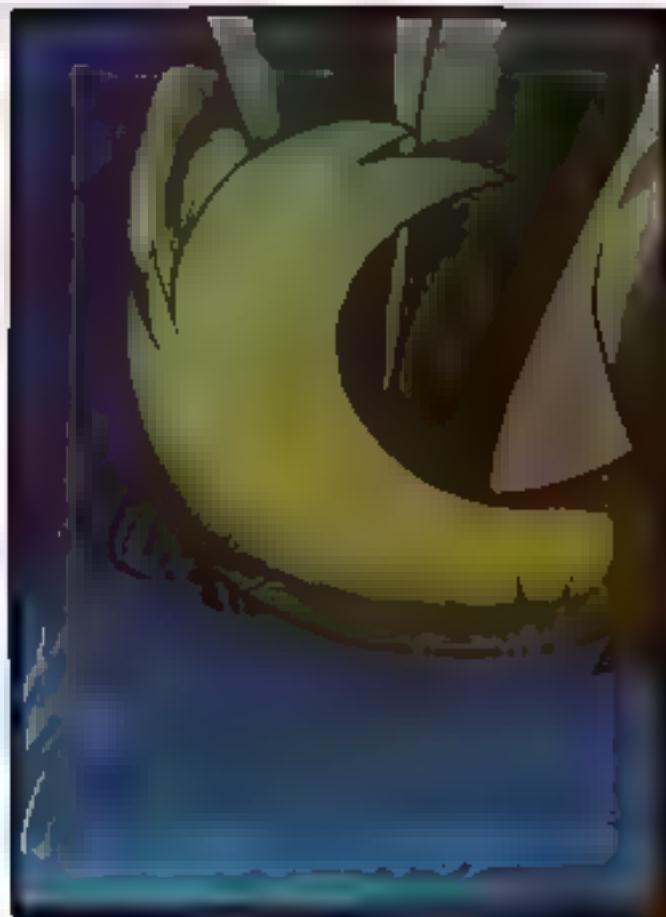
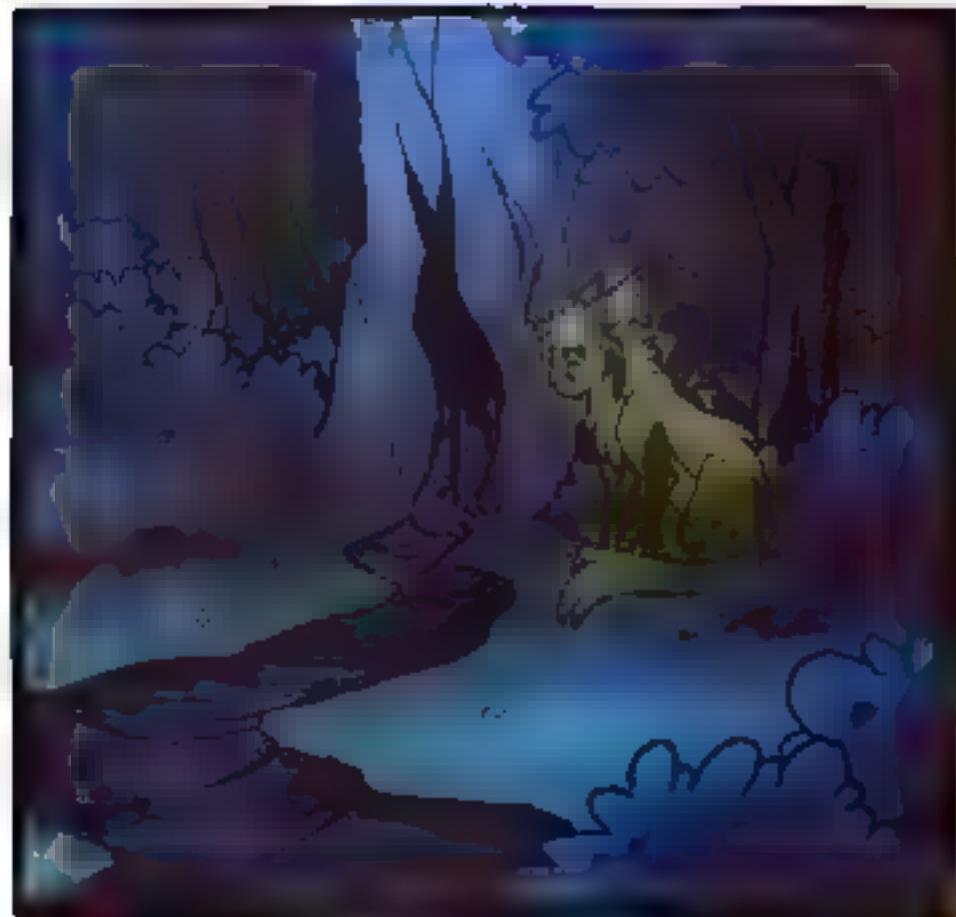
WHITESTORM...

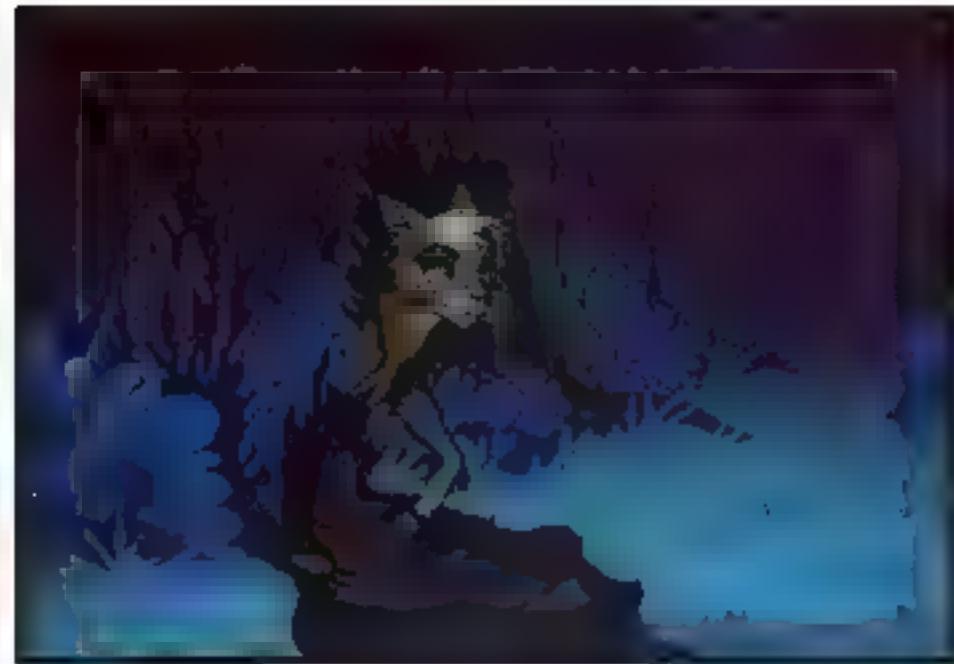
OF COURSE.

I KNOW.

SANDPAW WILL
BE GOING STRAIGHT
TO THE MEDICINE
DEN AS WELL.

TCH.



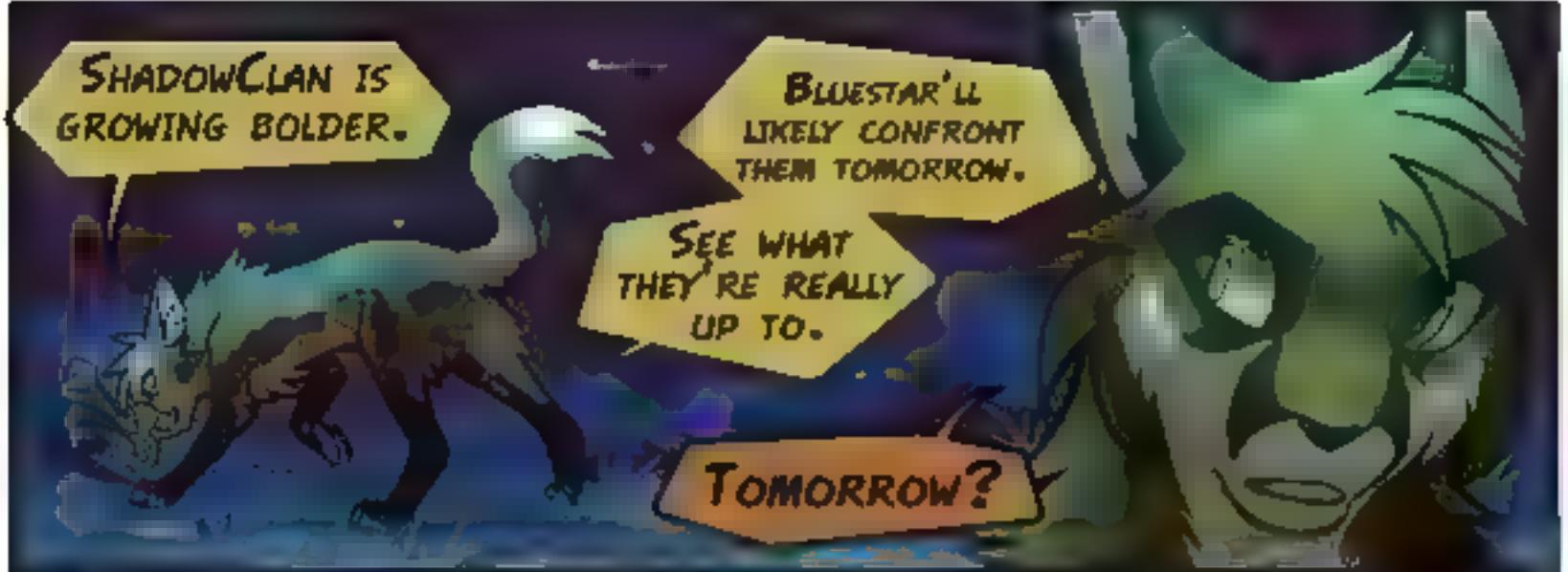


Is Sandpaw
alright?

Of course.
She's young, she'll
heal quickly.

Have some faith
in my abilities,
Redtail.

Or at least
in hers.



SHADOWCLAN IS
GROWING BOLDER.

BLUESTAR'LL
LIKELY CONFRONT
THEM TOMORROW.

SEE WHAT
THEY'RE REALLY
UP TO.

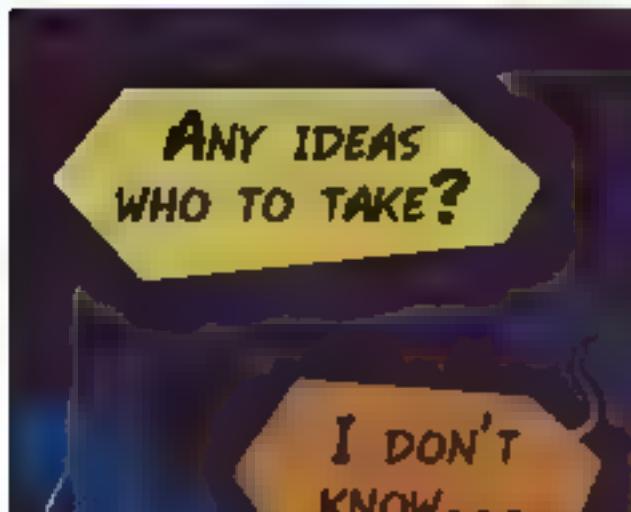
TOMORROW?



AT THE
GATHERING?



...YOU FORGOT,
DIDN'T YOU.



ANY IDEAS
WHO TO TAKE?

I DON'T
KNOW...



I HAVE
SOME IDEAS,
BUT...



I CAN COME, RIGHT?

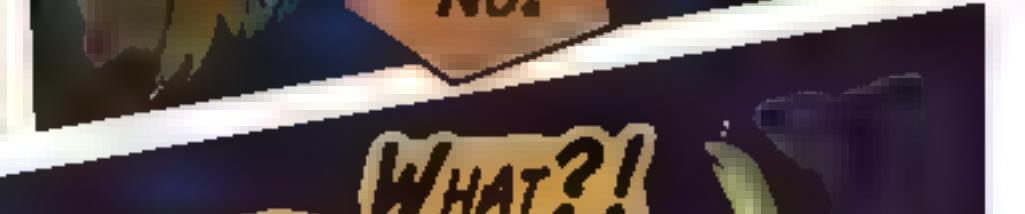


I DID GOOD
IN THE BATTLE.
DIDN'T I?



SANDPAW, I HAVE
THE MARIGOLD FOR--

No.



WHAT?!

WHY NOT?



BECAUSE YOU HAVE
YET TO LEARN RESPECT,
EVEN FOR THOSE OF
YOUR OWN CLAN.

HOW CAN I TRUST
YOU TO BEHAVE AROUND
OTHER CLANS?



WHAT IS WRONG
WITH YOU!?

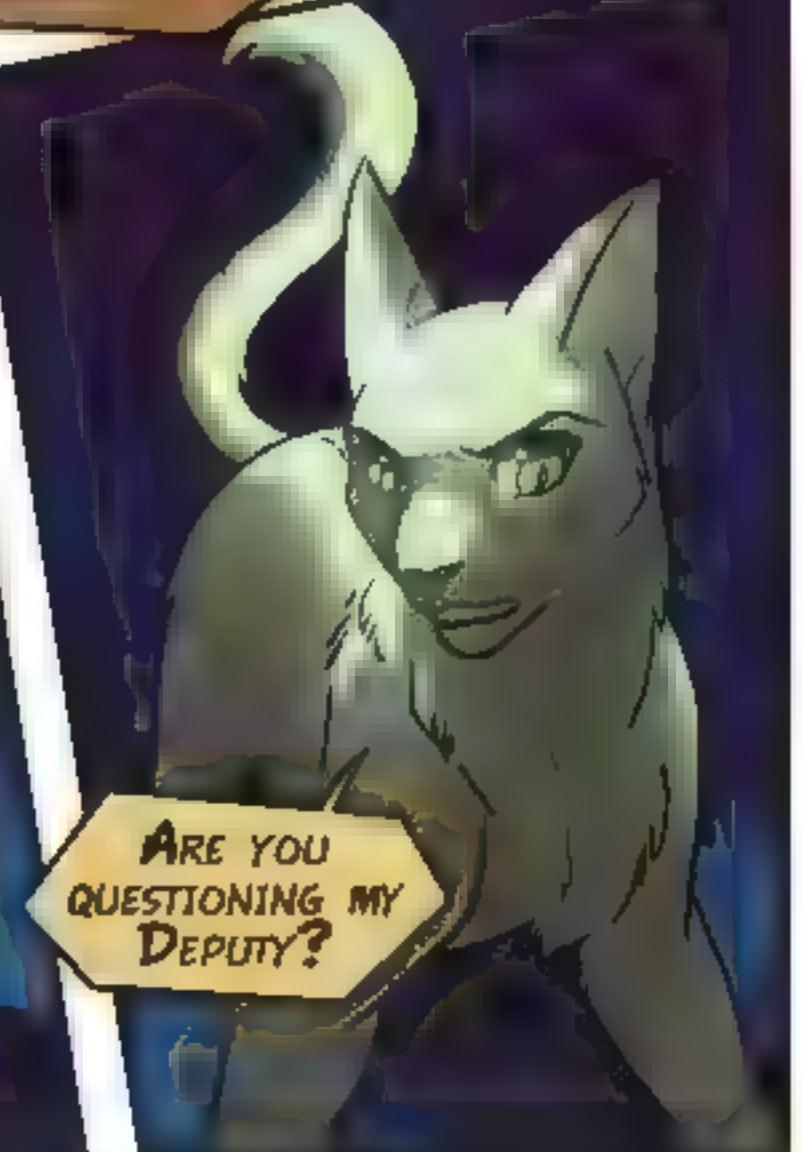
WHY ISN'T ANYTHING
I DO EVER ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING
TO DO WITH WHAT I THINK.
SANDPAW.

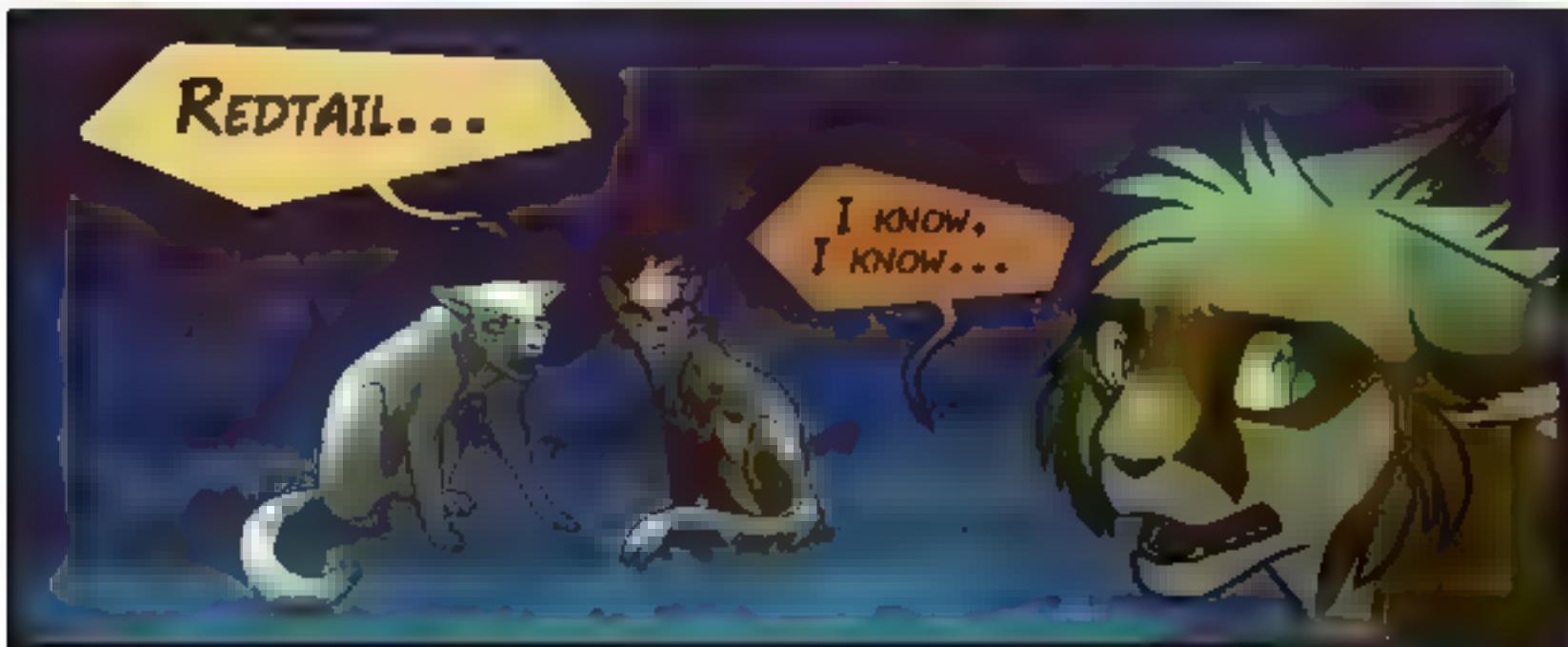
I HAVE TO THINK
OF WHAT IS BEST FOR
THE CLAN!



SANDPAW!



ARE YOU
QUESTIONING MY
DEPUTY?





YOU NEED TO
CONSIDER A DIFFERENT
APPROACH.

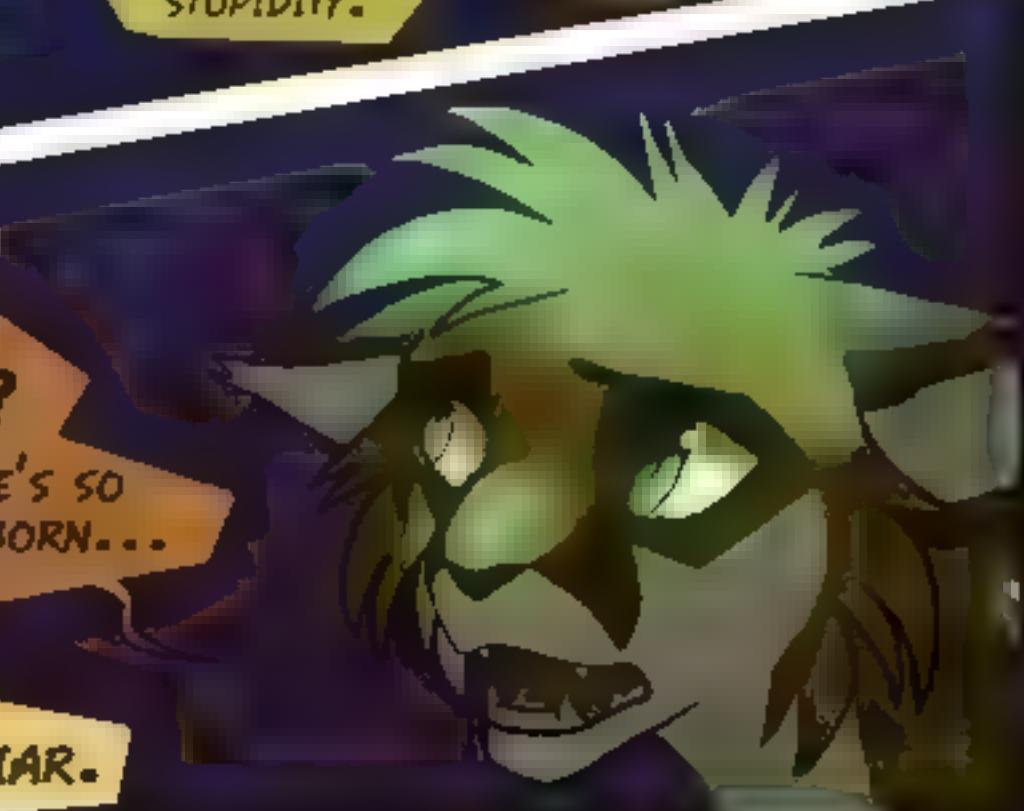
SORRY...



OH, IT'S NOT
US YOU HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE TO.



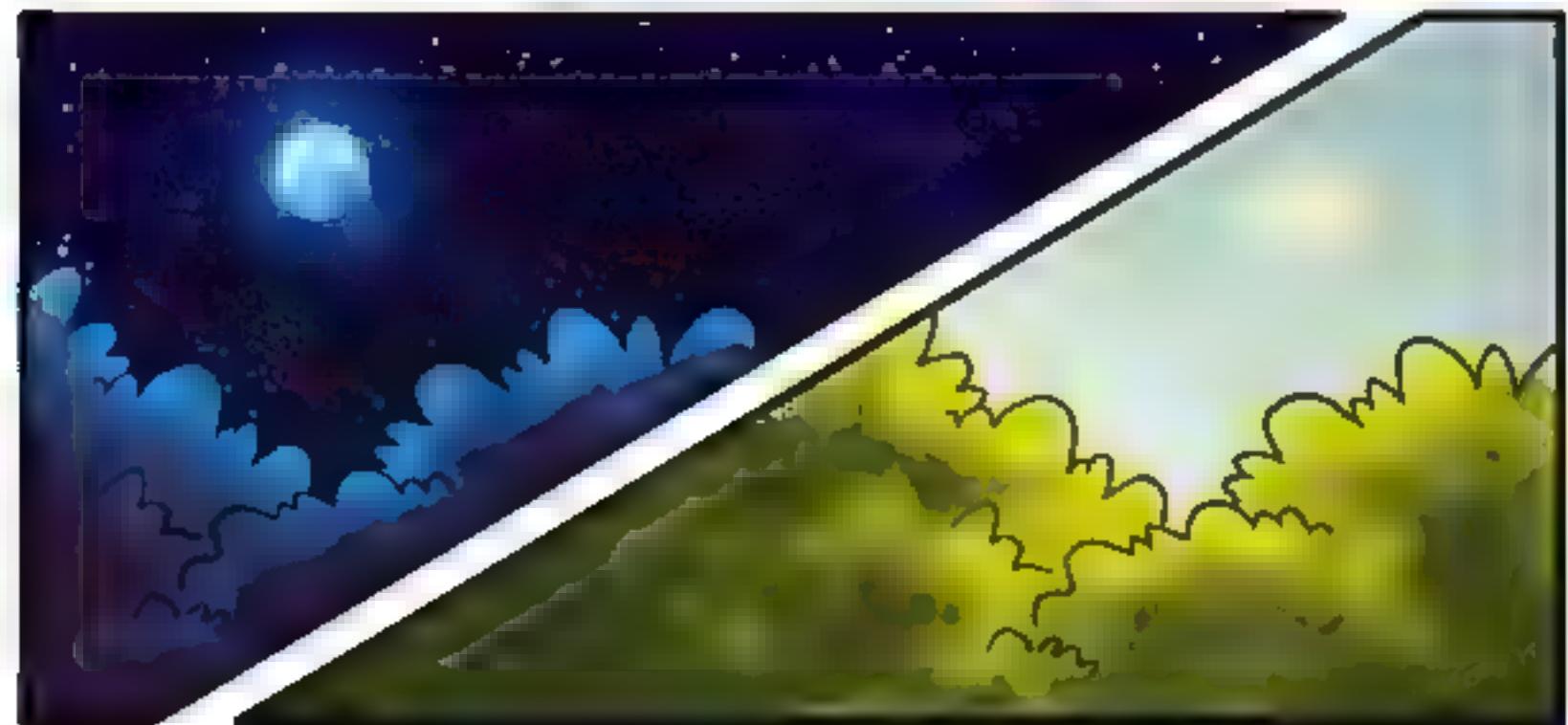
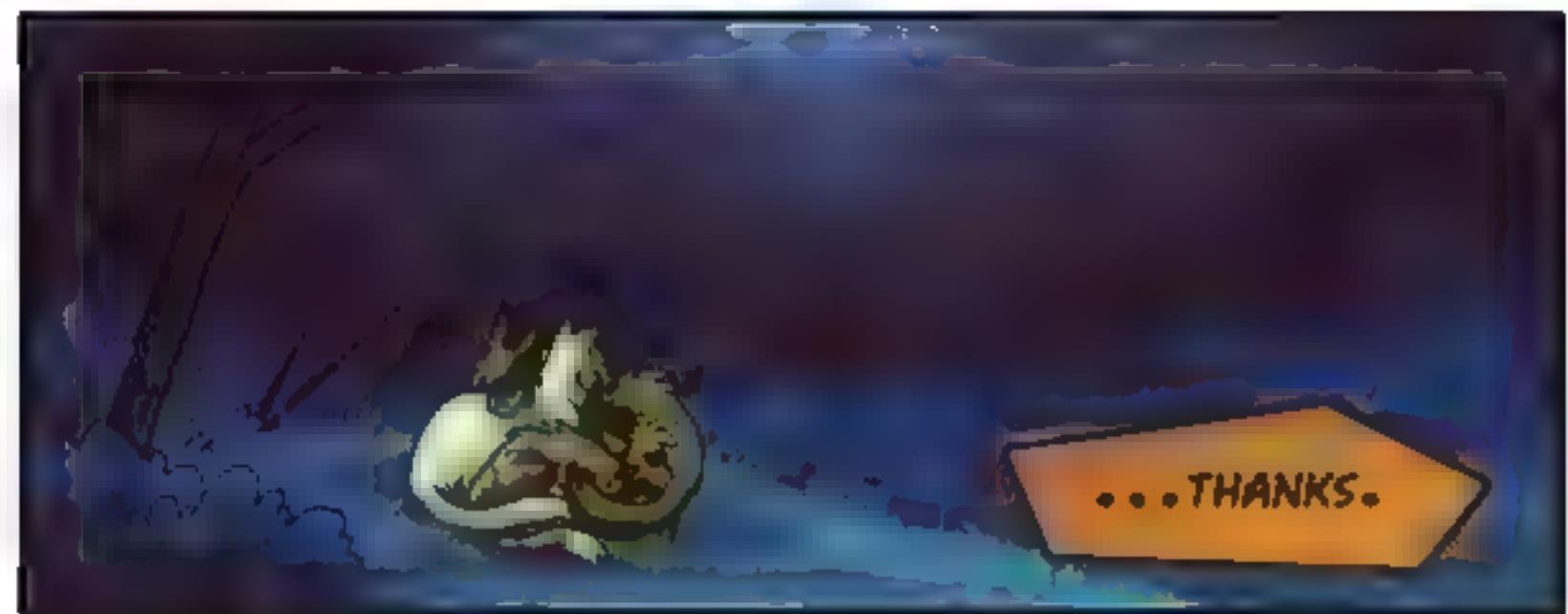
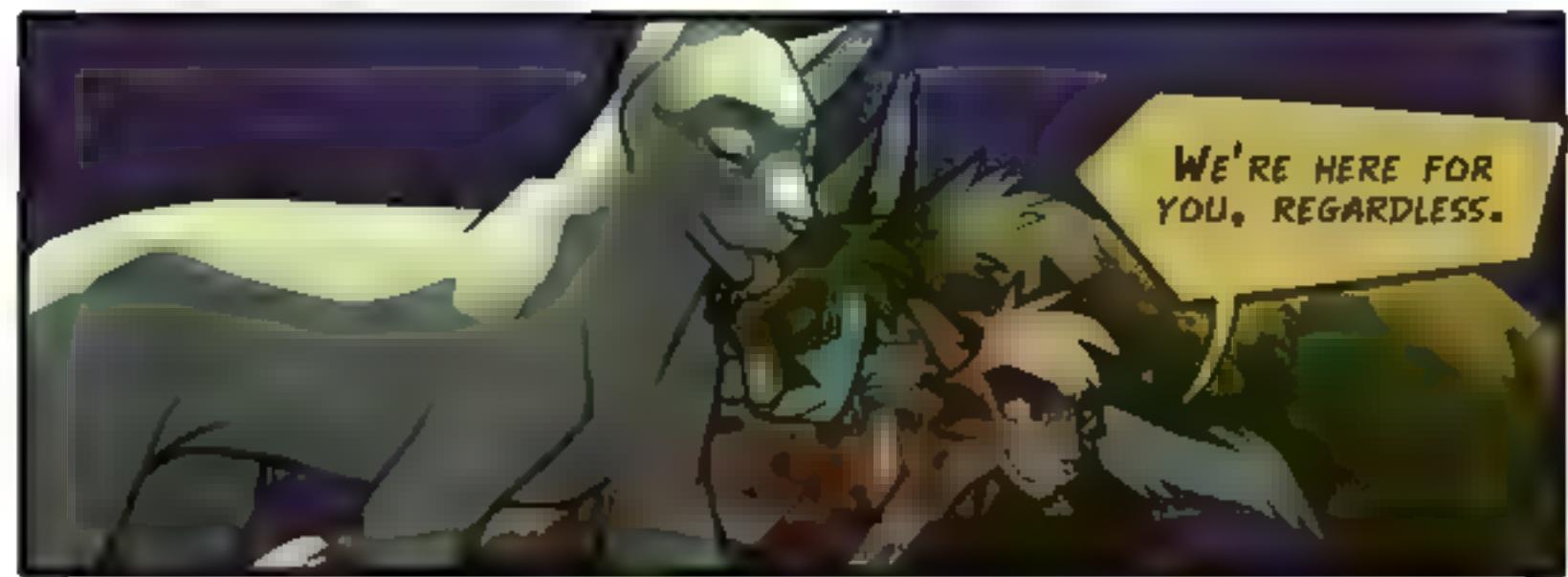
YEEAAH.
WE CAN
FORGIVE YOUR
STUPIDITY.

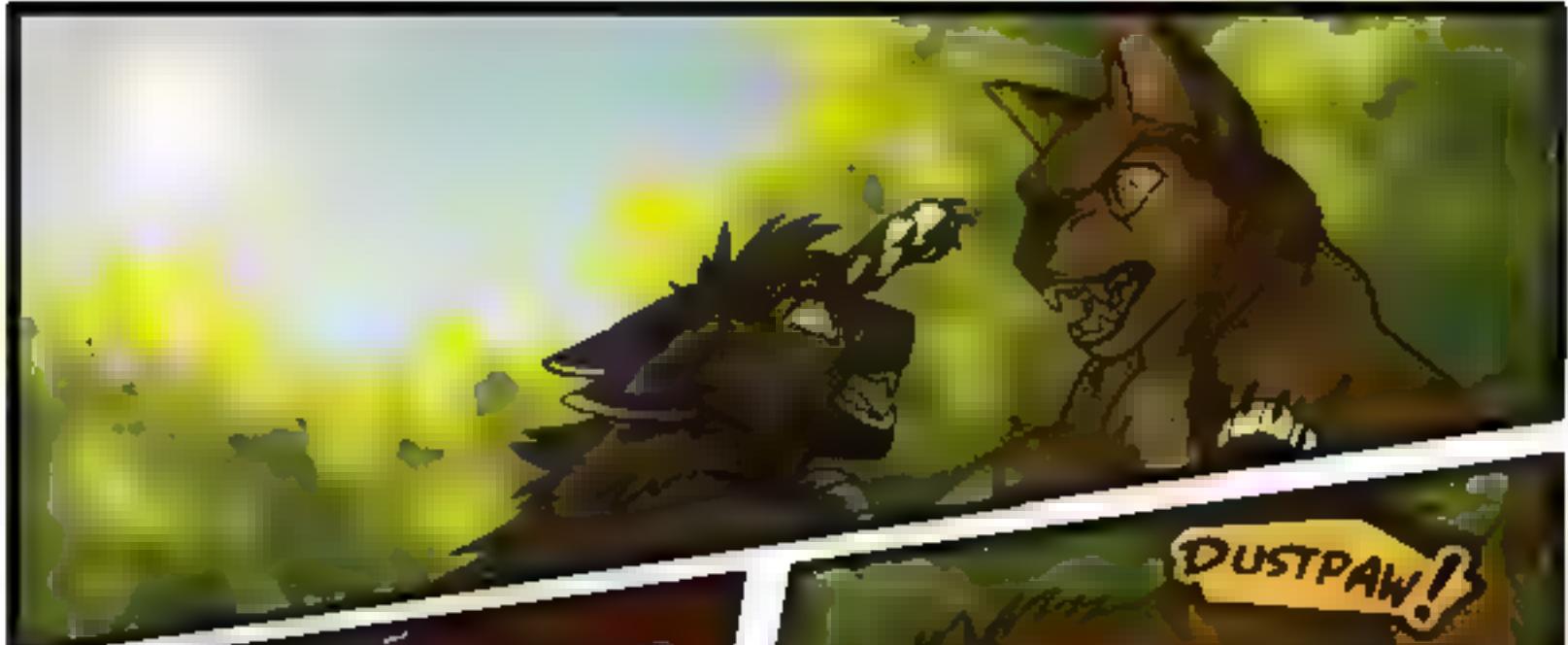


WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO DO?

SHE'S SO
STUBBORN...

SOUNDS FAMILIAR.







BUT THOSE WHO
RUN FROM A FIGHT...



...ARE UNWORTHY
OF THEIR CLAN.

I HOPE YOU WOULDN'T
BRING SUCH DISGRACE TO
YOUR CLAN, RAVENPAW.

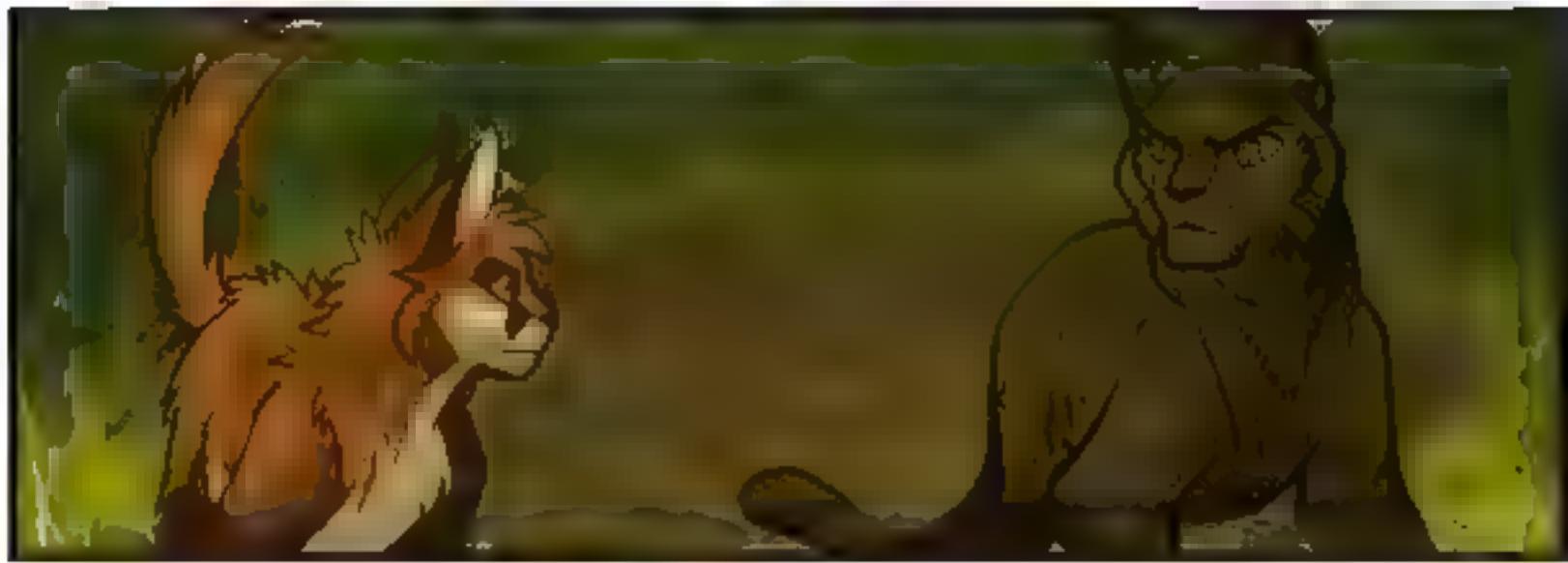
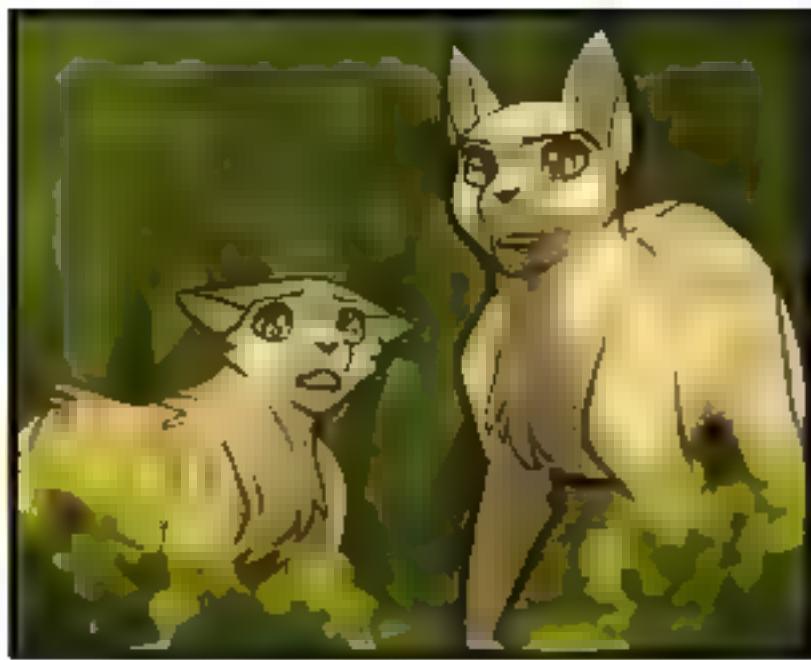


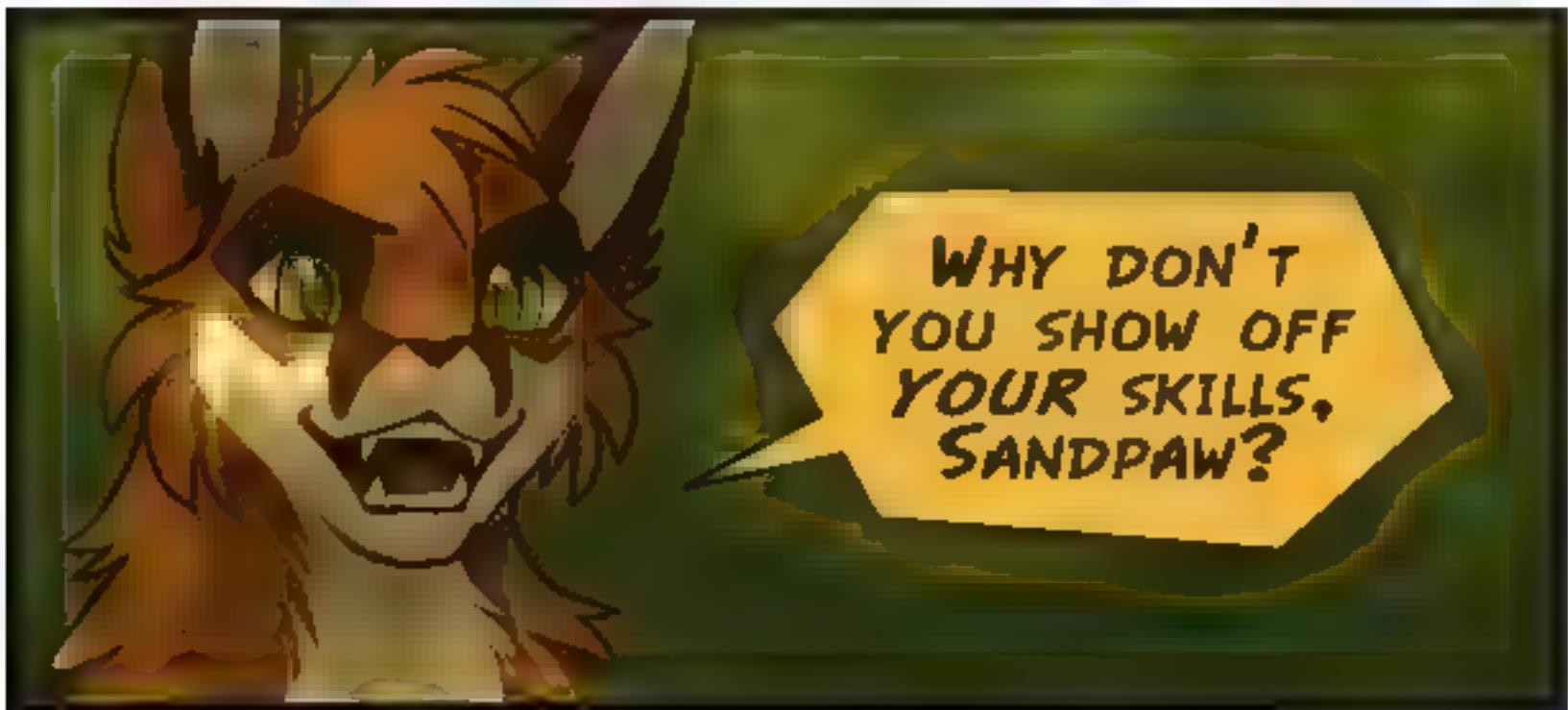
LIGHTEN UP,
TIGERCLAW. THIS IS
JUST TRAINING.

IT WON'T ALWAYS
BE. AND HE'S MY
APPRENTICE.

AND YOU
ARE UNDER MY
AUTHORITY.

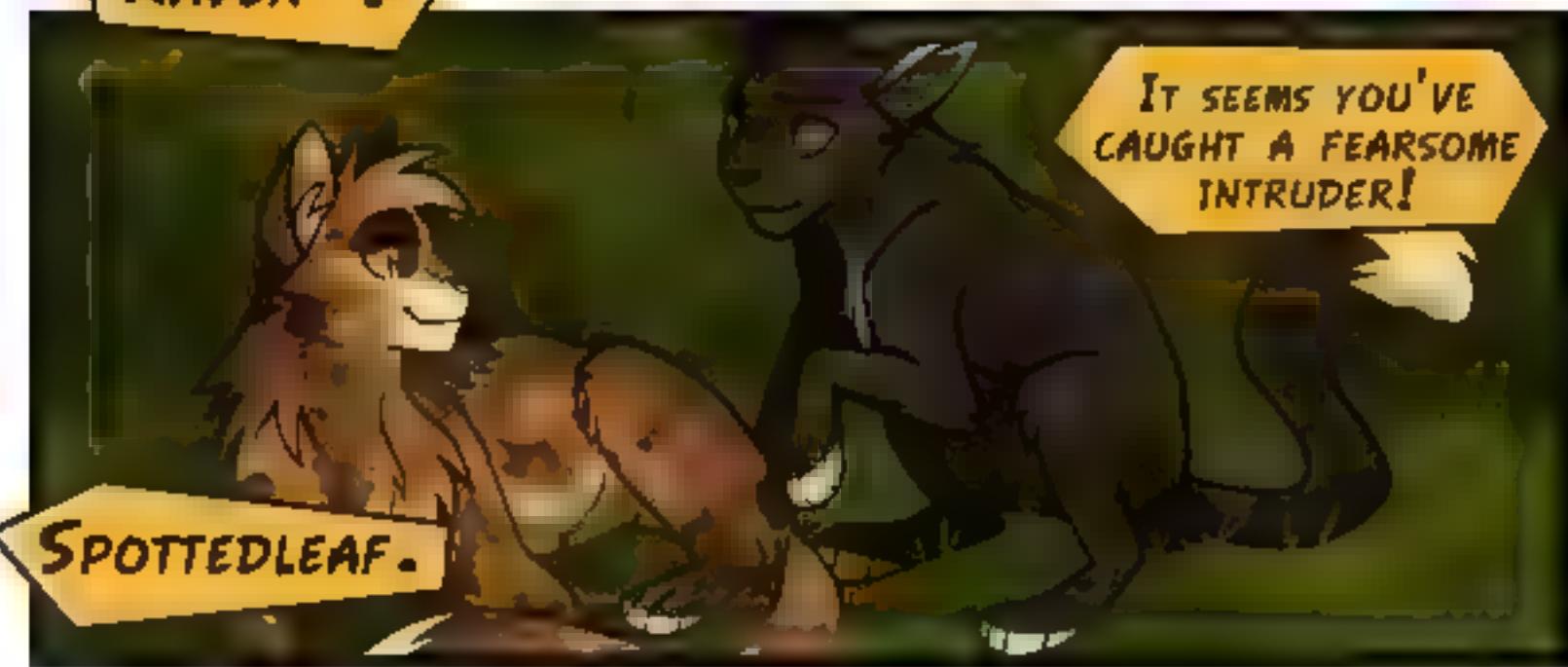
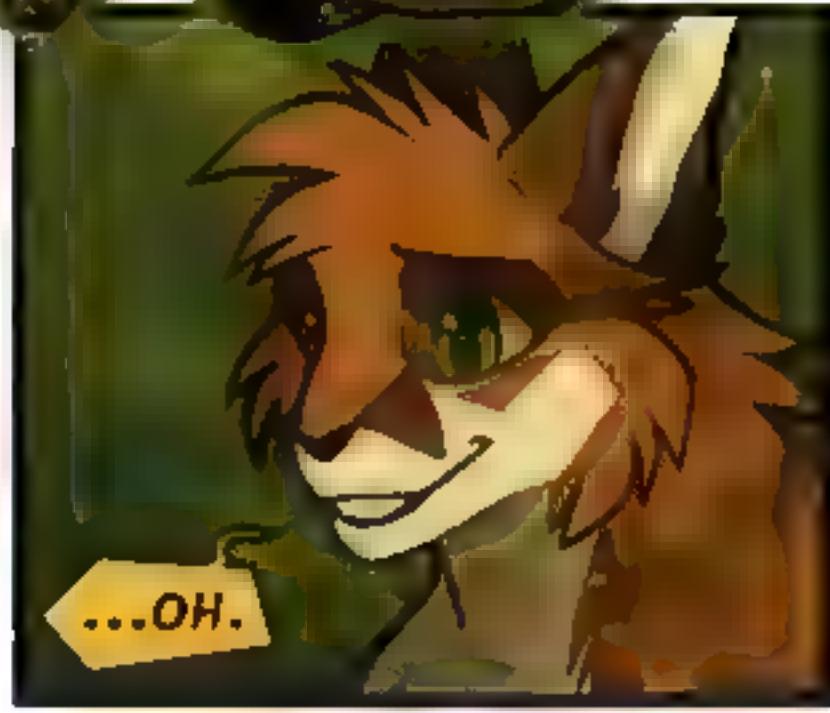
OR SHOULD
I FIND SOMEONE ELSE
TO MENTOR HIM?













GREAT JOB,
RAVENPAW.



...SORRY.

DON'T BE!
YOU DID GOOD.



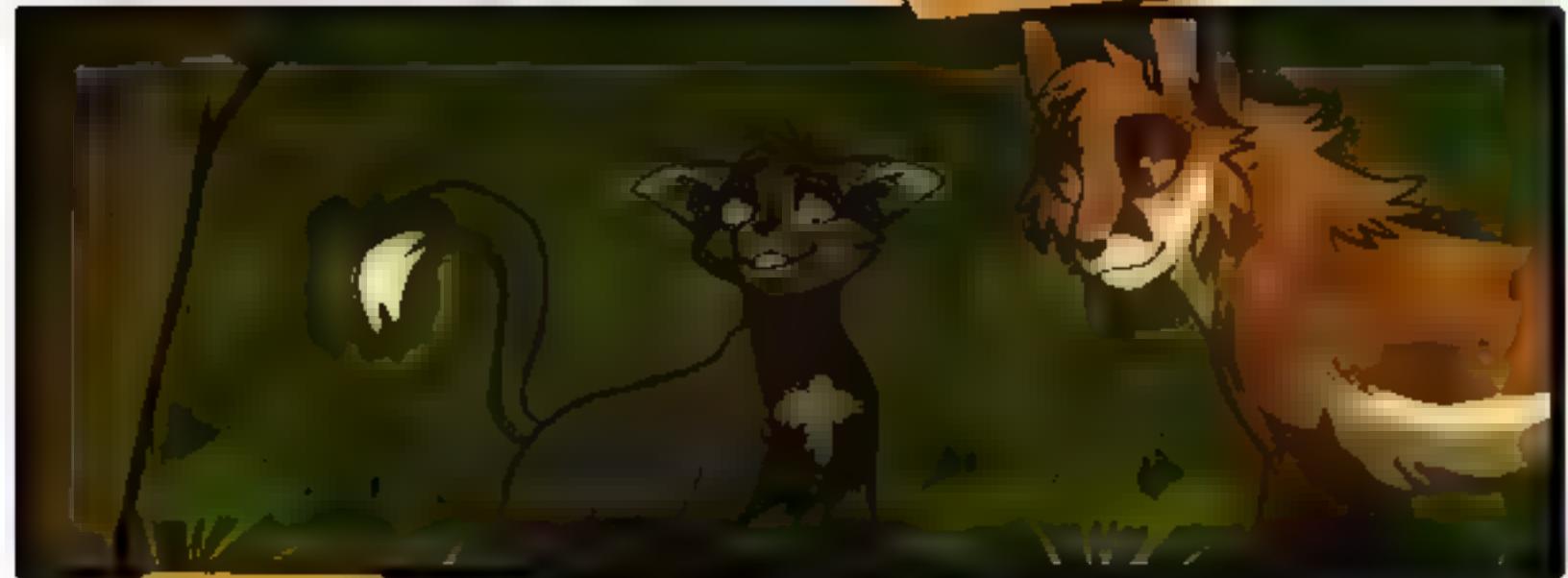
THAT WAS A GREAT POUNCE.
YOU HAVE AN INCREDIBLE LEAP,
THAT'LL MAKE YOU AN IMPRESSIVE
HUNTER.



I'M SURE EVEN
TIGERCLAW CAN'T
ARGUE ABOUT
THAT.



...FINE, YES,
GOOD JOB.



WHY DON'T
YOU HEAD BACK TO
CAMP, GET YOURSELF
SOMETHING TO EAT?

WE'LL BE
ALONG SHORTLY.

OKAY!



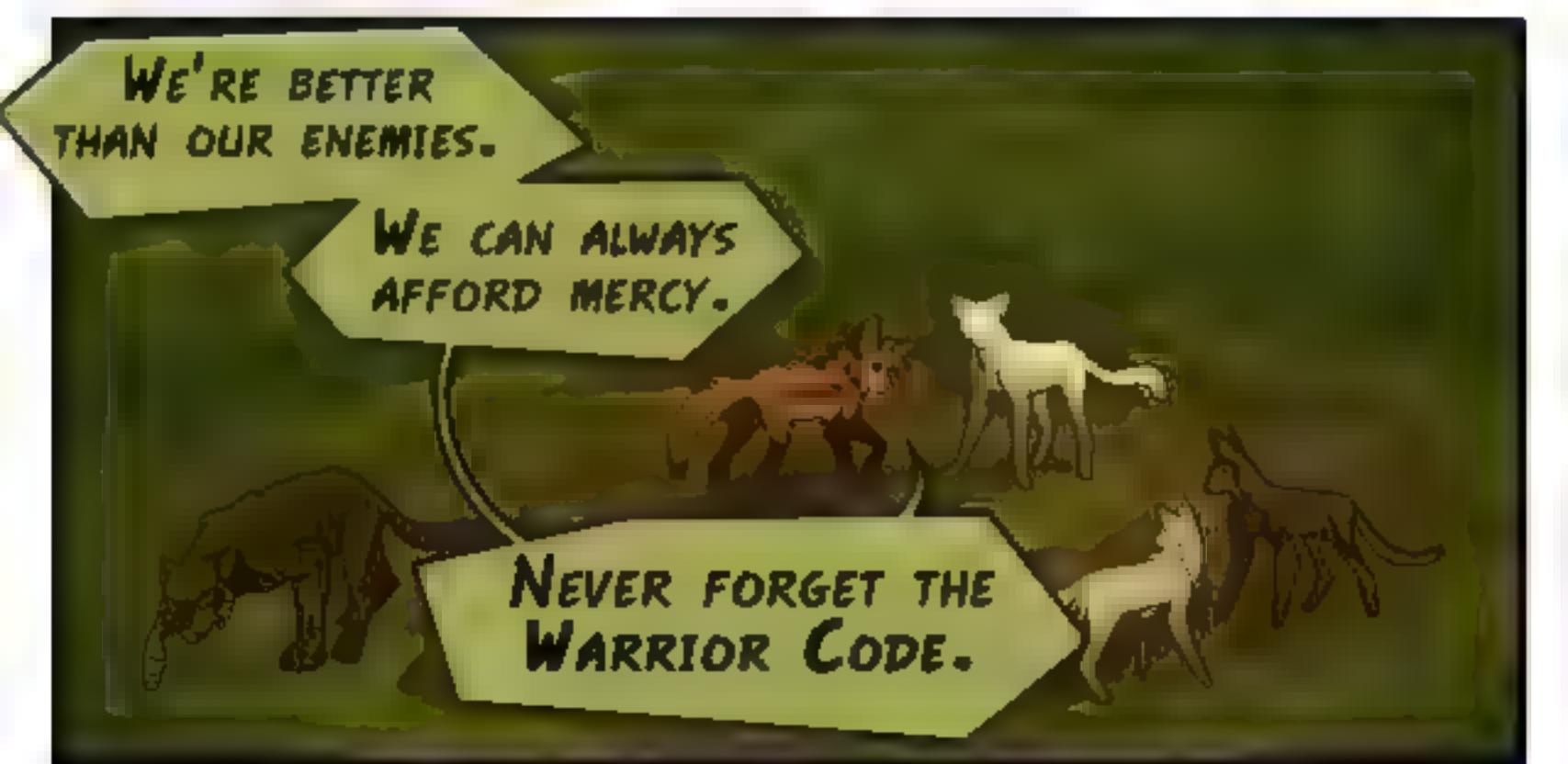
YOU SPOIL HIM,
REDTAIL.

BETTER THAN
BULLYING HIM.



I THINK
TIGERCLAW'S RIGHT.

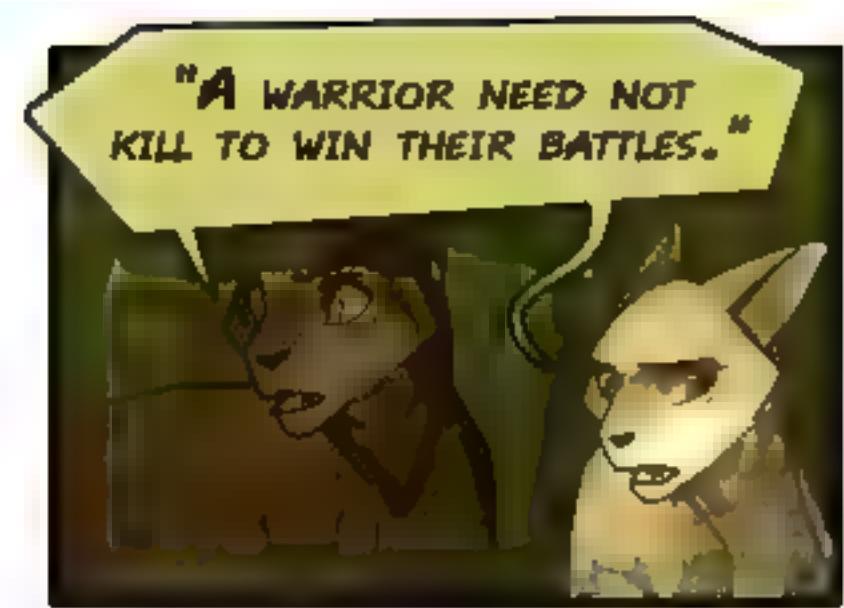
CAN WE AFFORD
TO PLAY NICE WHEN OUR
ENEMIES WON'T BE?



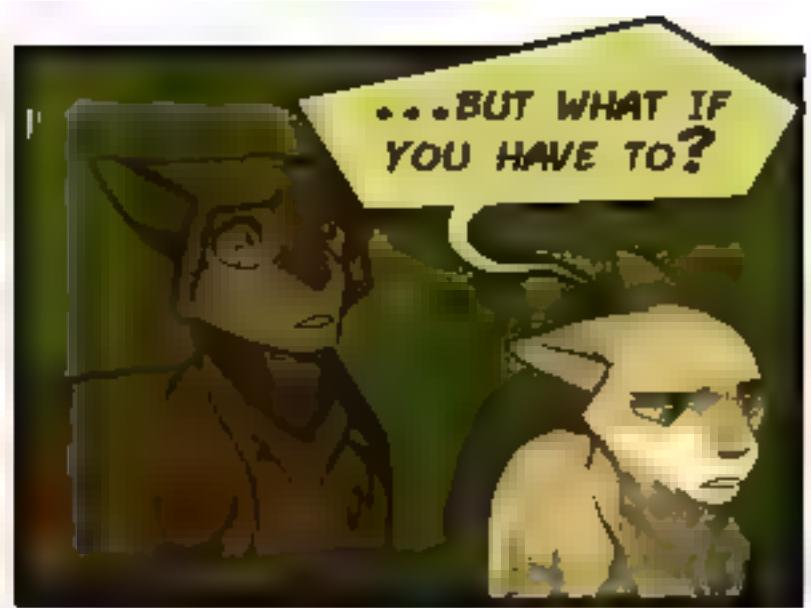
WE'RE BETTER
THAN OUR ENEMIES.

WE CAN ALWAYS
AFFORD MERCY.

NEVER FORGET THE
WARRIOR CODE.



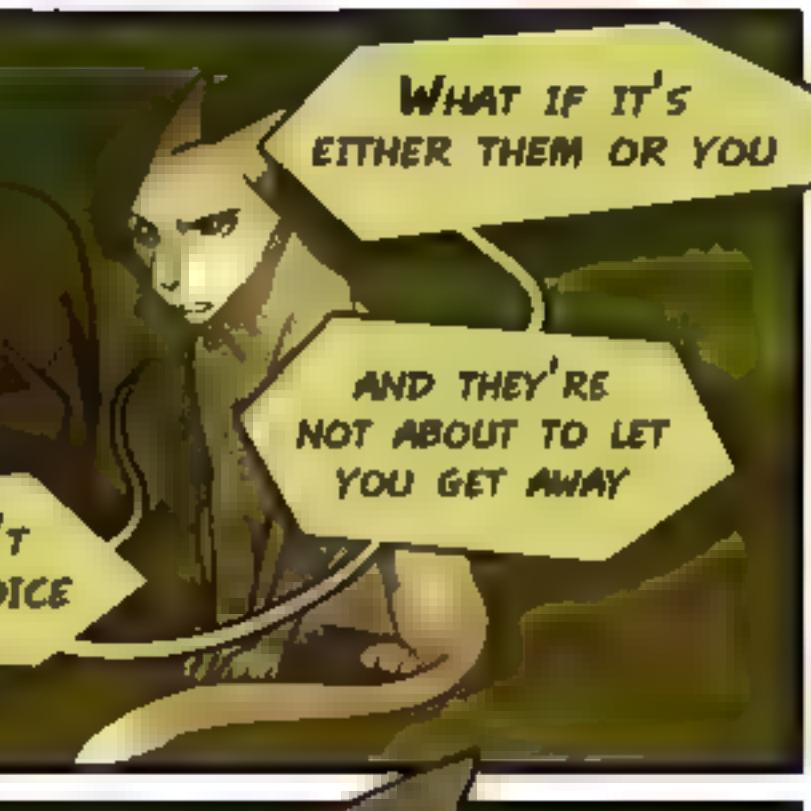
"A WARRIOR NEED NOT
KILL TO WIN THEIR BATTLES."



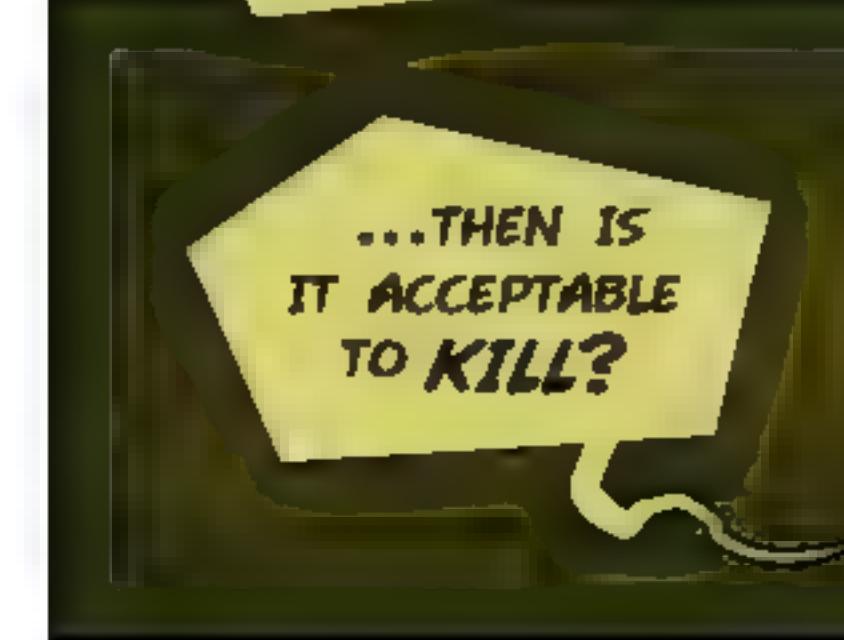
...BUT WHAT IF
YOU HAVE TO?



IF THEY'RE
JUST GONNA HURT
EVERYBODY...



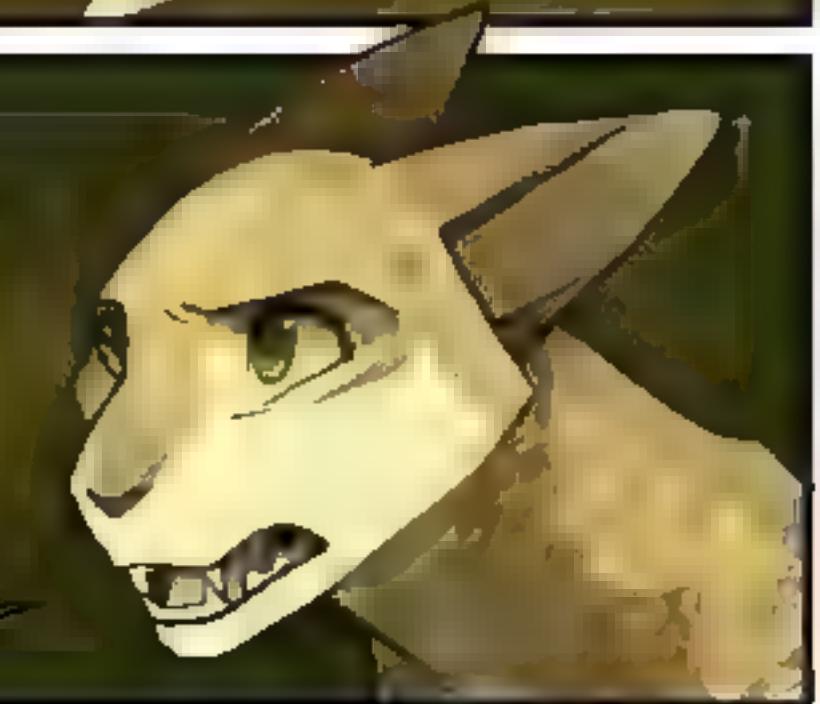
YOU DON'T
HAVE A CHOICE



WHAT IF IT'S
EITHER THEM OR YOU



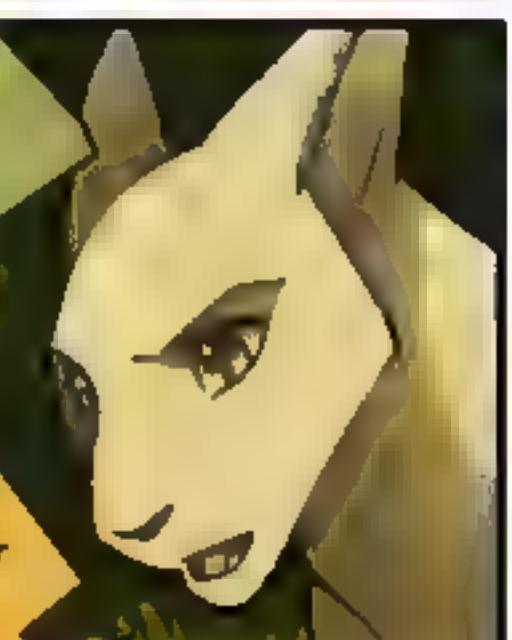
AND THEY'RE
NOT ABOUT TO LET
YOU GET AWAY



...THEN IS
IT ACCEPTABLE
TO KILL?



...IDEALLY, IT'S
STILL A NO. YOU SHOULD
NEVER BE PUT IN THAT
SITUATION.



WHY ARE YOU
THINKING ABOUT THAT
KIND OF THING?



I GUESS...



WE JUST
HEAR ALL THESE
STORIES...



ABOUT ROGUES,
OTHER CLANS...



...EVEN KITTYPETS.



IF ANYONE TRIES
TO HURT MY CLAN,
I'LL...



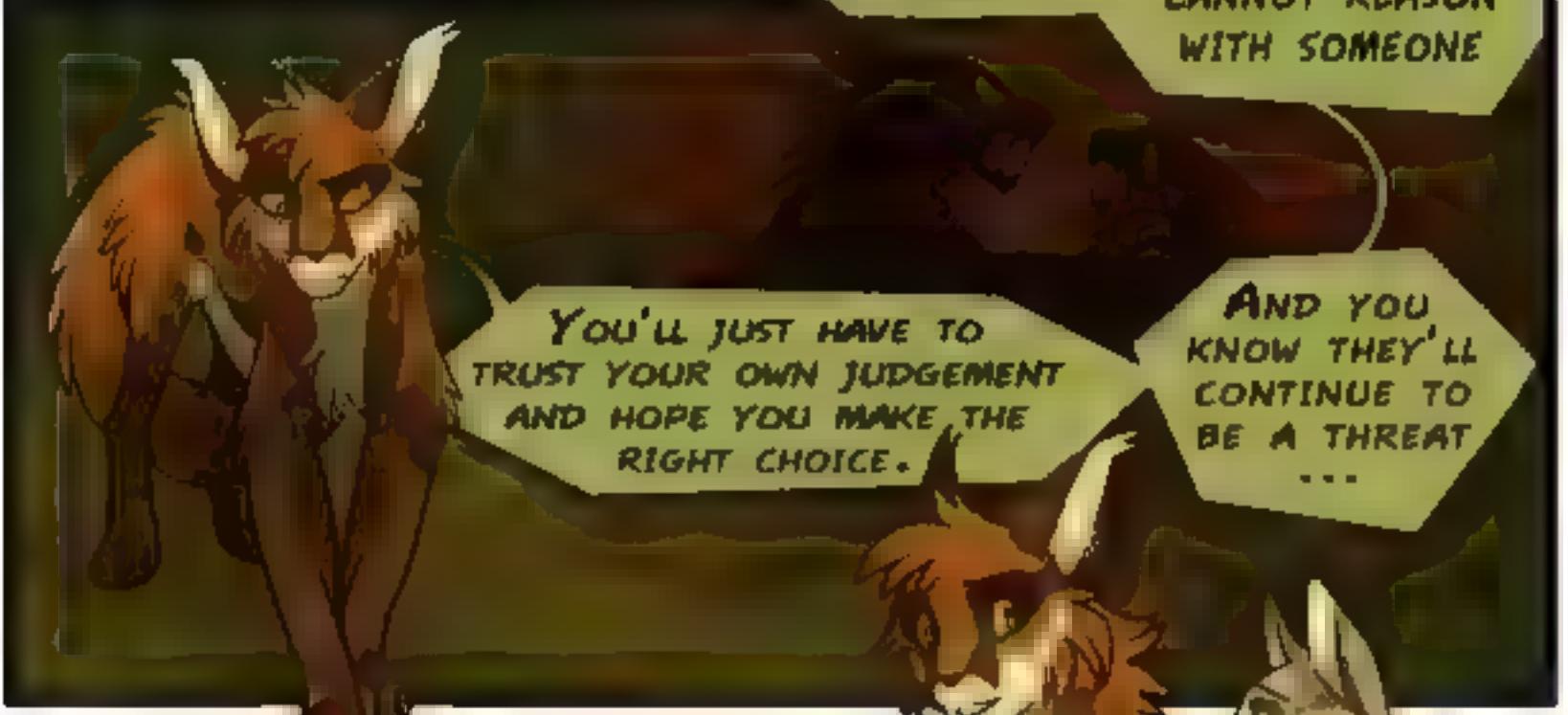
I'LL KILL THEM!



SANDPAW...

THERE MAY BE
TIMES

WHEN YOU
CANNOT REASON
WITH SOMEONE



YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO
TRUST YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT
AND HOPE YOU MAKE THE
RIGHT CHOICE.

AND YOU,
KNOW THEY'LL
CONTINUE TO
BE A THREAT
...



...BUT I HOPE
YOU'LL NEVER BE FACED
WITH THAT KIND OF
DECISION.



HAVE YOU EVER
HAD TO DEAL WITH THAT
KIND OF THING?

NAH, MOST
CATS DON'T BOTHER
WITH ALL THAT.



...YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE A PRETTY
GOOD DEPUTY.



Y-YOU MEAN IT?

WELL, YEAH.
IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU
WOULDN'T BE DEPUTY.

HE'S A GREAT
MENTOR, TOO!

HEY, WHAT
ABOUT ME?



YOU'RE GOOD, TOO,
WHitestorm, BUT YOU'RE
NOT DEPUTY!



ARE YOU SAYING WHITESTORM
COULDN'T BE DEPUTY?

WELL, IF HE MADE A
BETTER DEPUTY, HE WOULD
BE DEPUTY!

WHAT, DO YOU
NOT TRUST BLUESTAR'S
JUDGEMENT?



SEE?



THEY BELIEVE
IN YOU.

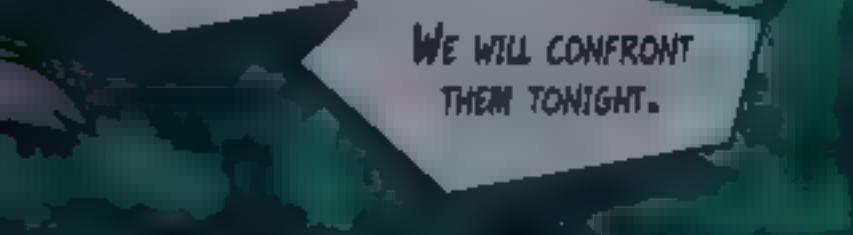


WHY DON'T YOU?





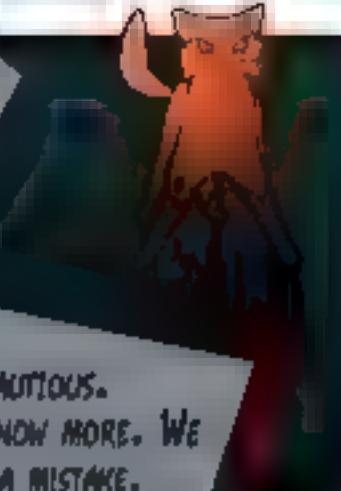
I'M SURE YOU ARE ALL AWARE
OF THE ATTACK ON THE SHADOWCLAN
BORDER YESTERDAY.



WE WILL CONFRONT
THEM TONIGHT.



BLACKFOOT'S MENTION OF
A NEW LEADER HAS ME CONCERNED
FOR THIS GATHERING



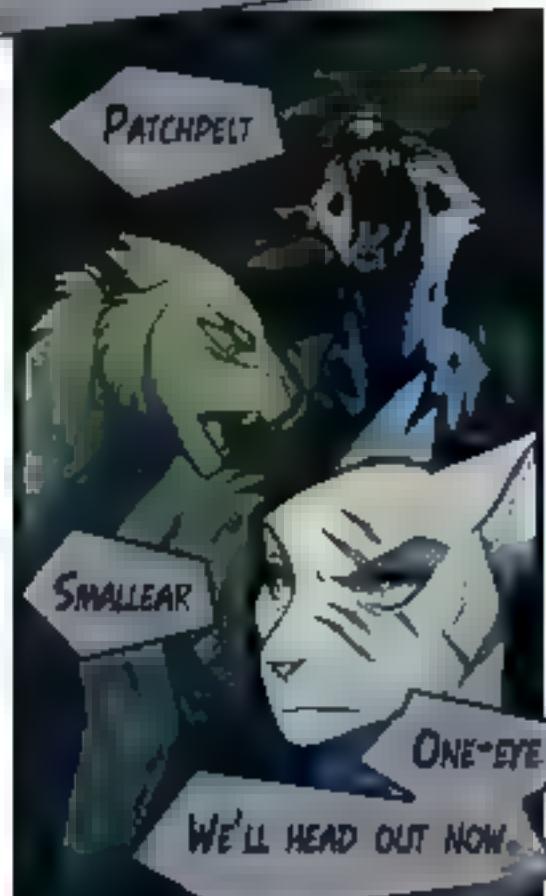
WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS.
AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW MORE. WE
CANNOT AFFORD A MISTAKE.



Whitestorm
Tigerclaw



Willowpelt
Brindleface
Goldenflower

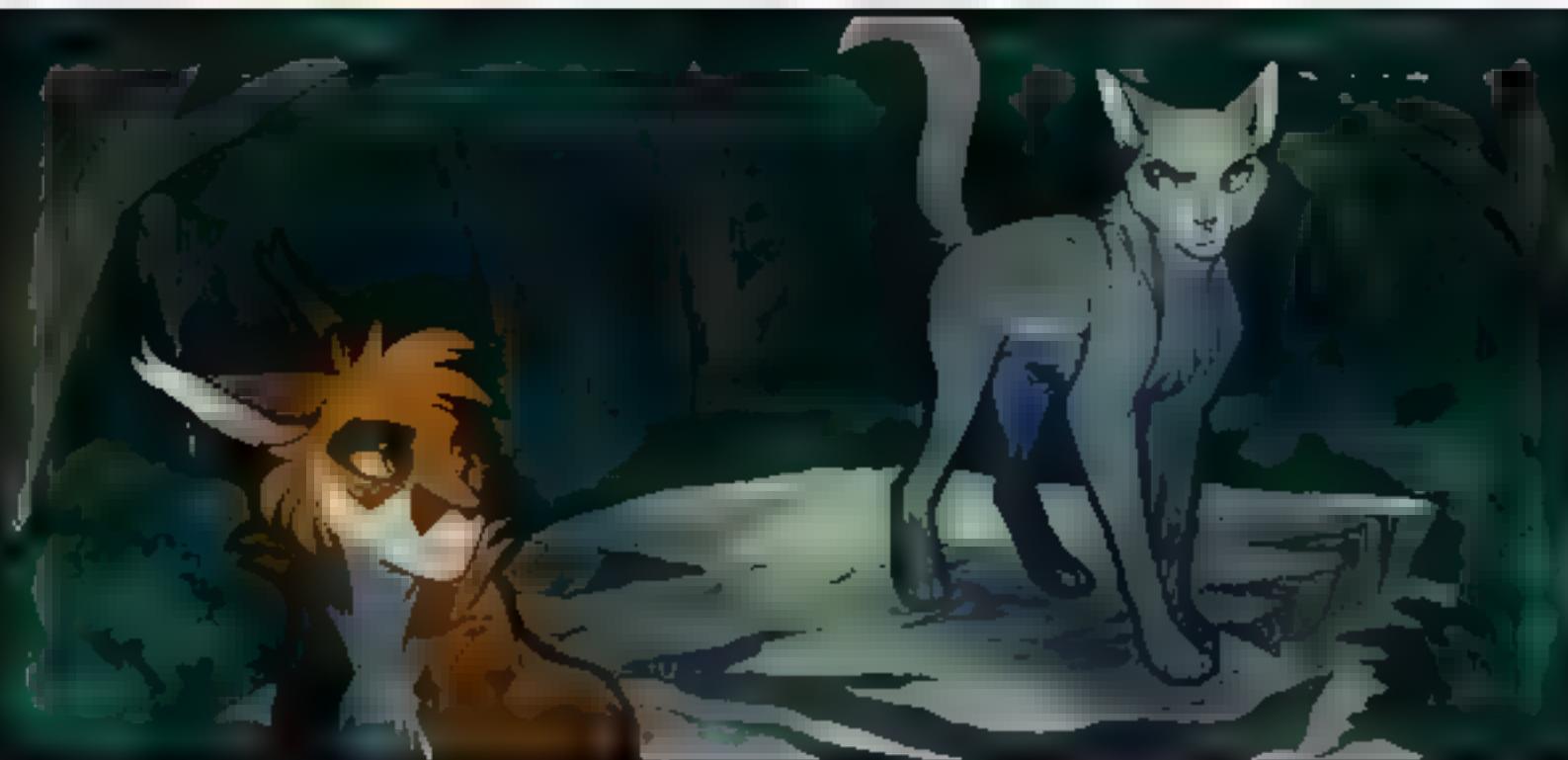


Patchpelt
Smallear
One-eye
We'll head out now.



HEY, WHAT ABOUT US?

WON'T THE OTHER CLANS
THINK WE'RE WEAK IF YOU DON'T
BRING ANY APPRENTICES?



SHADOWCLAN IS CURRENTLY
UNPREDICTABLE. THE GATHERING
MAY BE DANGEROUS.

HEY, IT'S OKAY,
THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT
MOON.

BESIDES, ATTENDING
THE GATHERING IS A GREAT
HONOR.

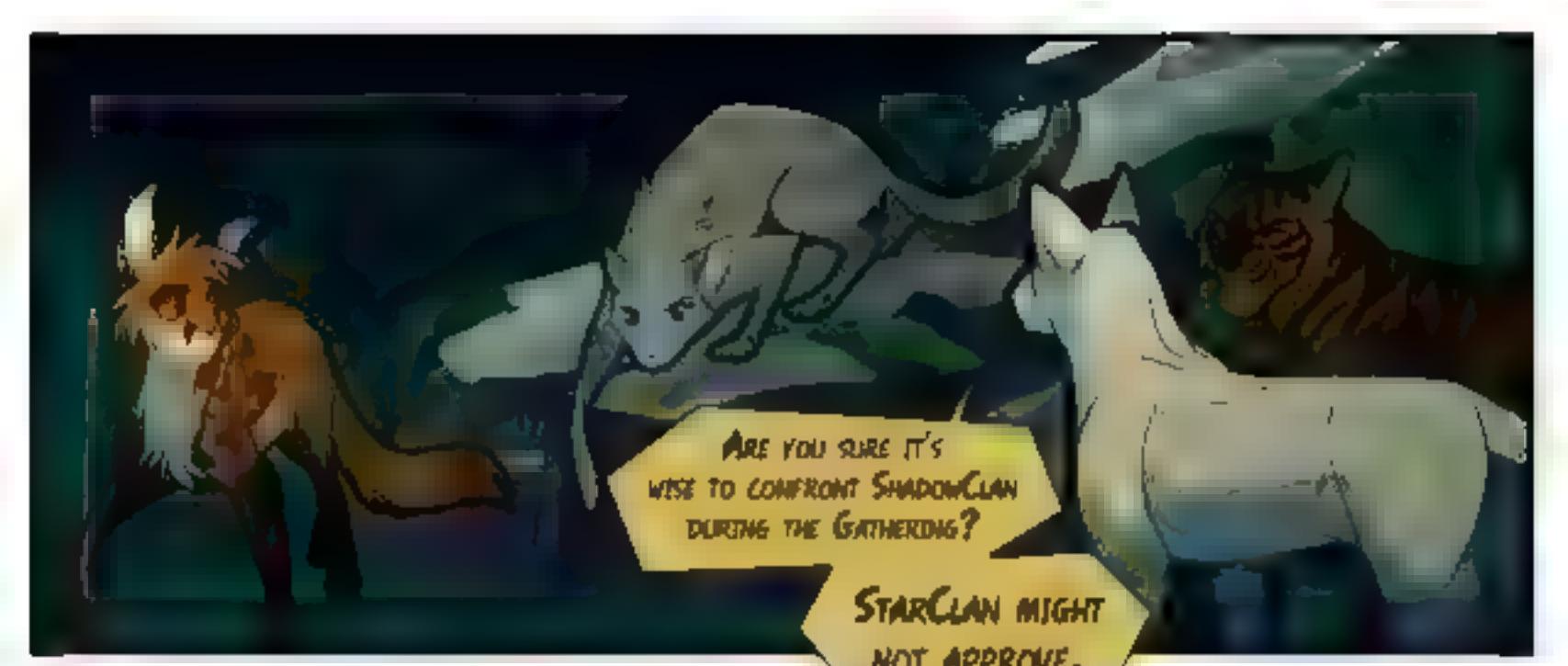
ONE YOU'VE YET TO
PROVE WORTHY OF.



GOOD LUCK AT THE
GATHERING, RETAIL.

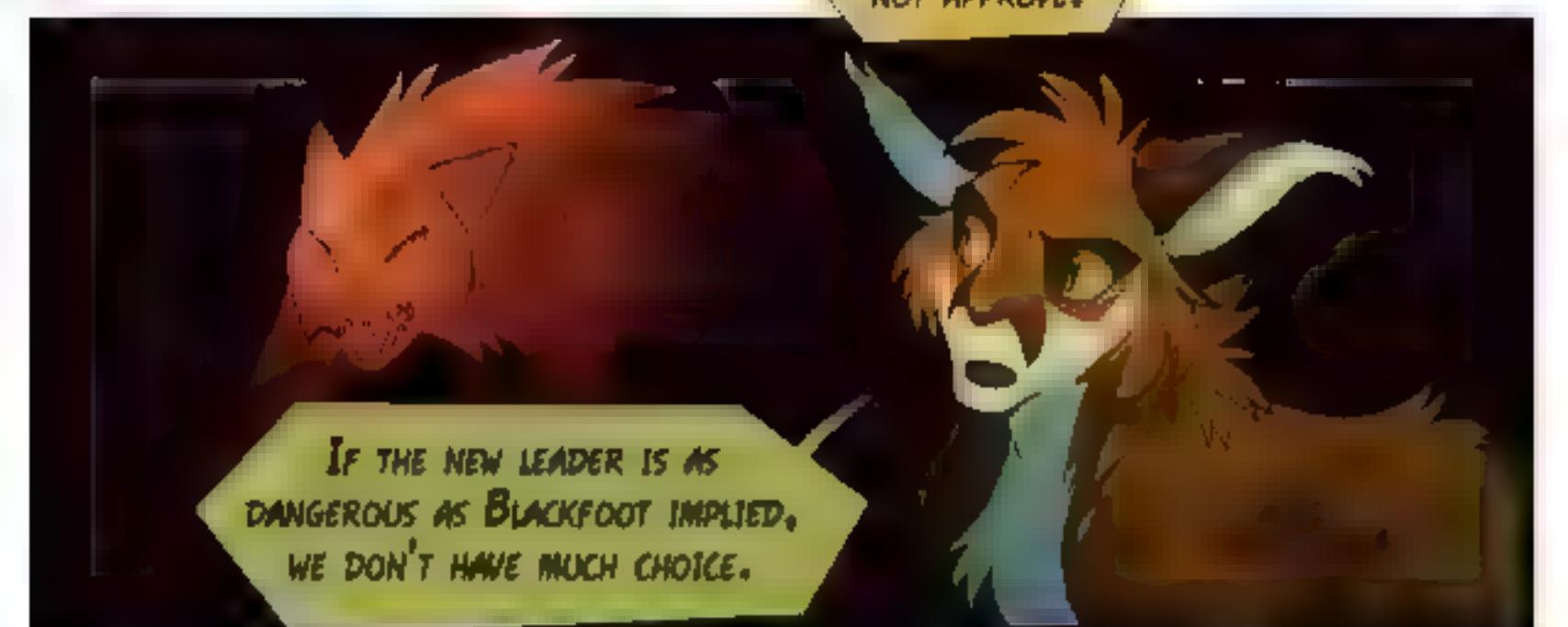
THANKS,
LIONHEART!

GOOD LUCK WITH
THE APPRENTICES!

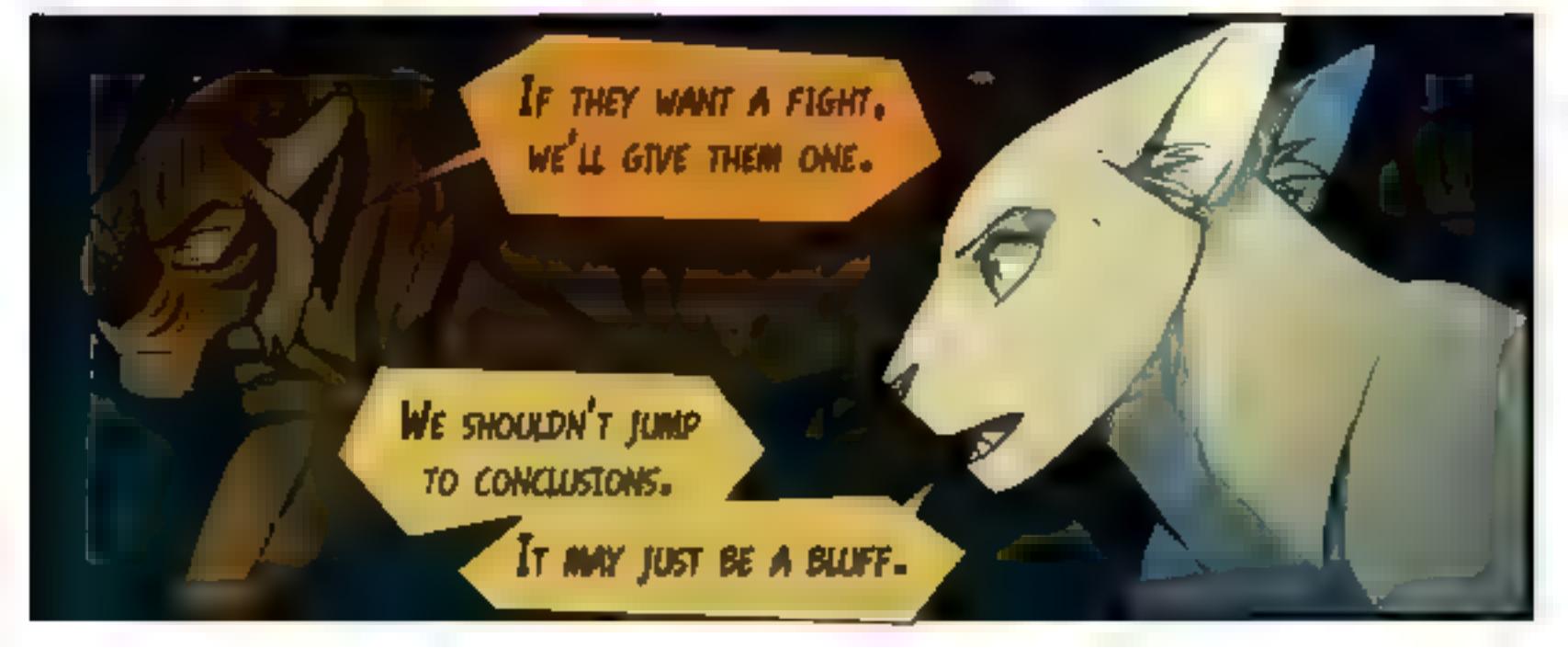


ARE YOU SURE IT'S
WISE TO CONFRONT SHADOWCLAN
DURING THE GATHERING?

STARCLAN MIGHT
NOT APPROVE.



IF THE NEW LEADER IS AS
DANGEROUS AS BLACKFOOT IMPLIED,
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.



IF THEY WANT A FIGHT,
WE'LL GIVE THEM ONE.

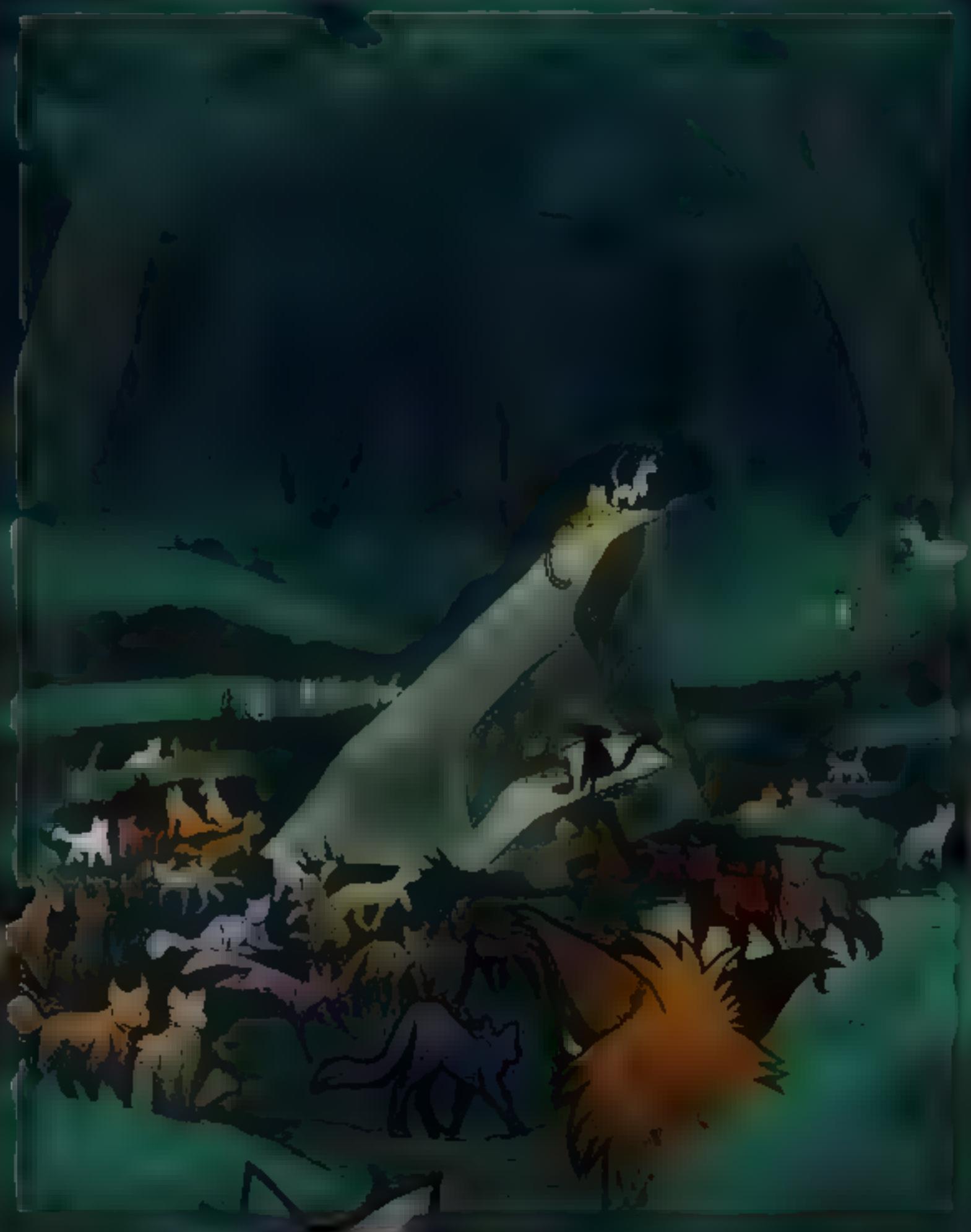
WE SHOULDN'T JUMP
TO CONCLUSIONS.

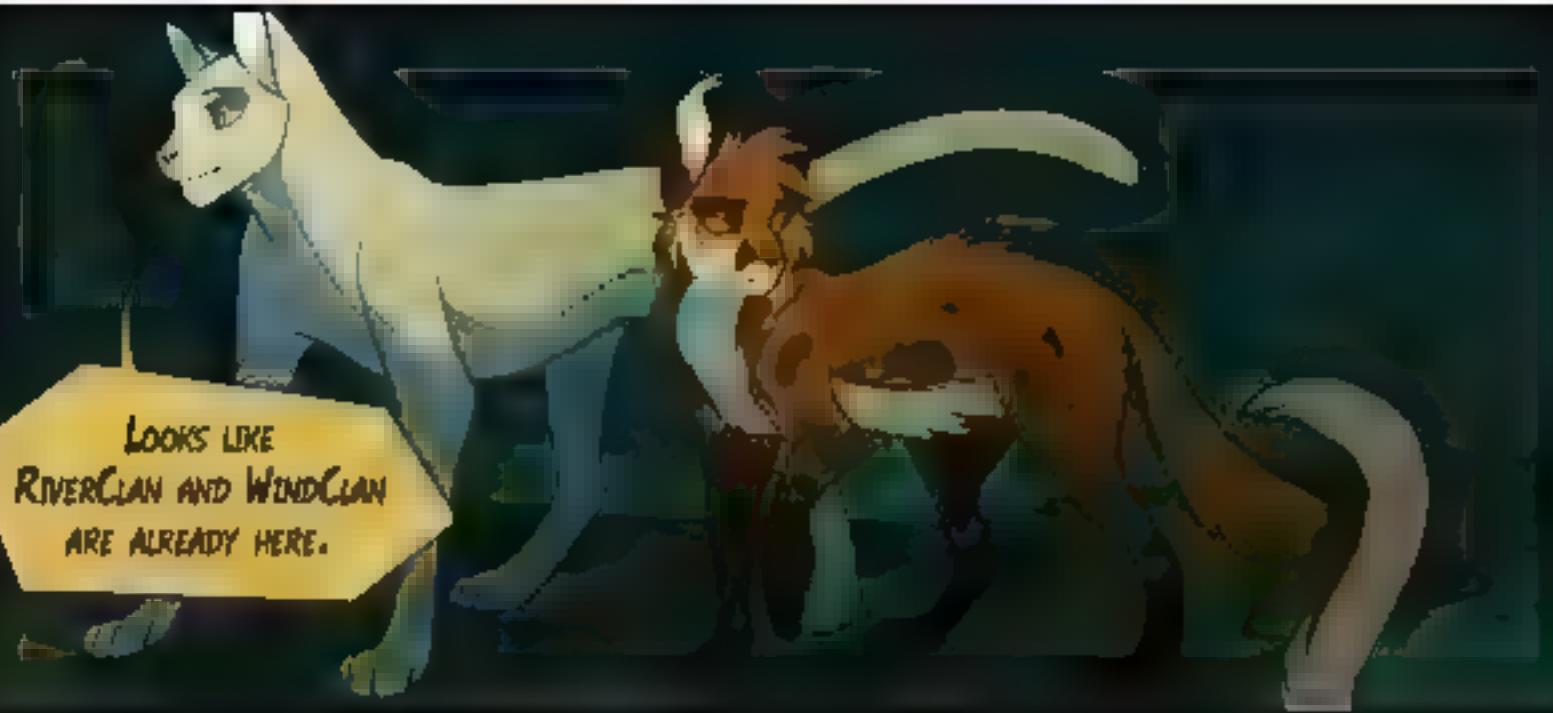
IT MAY JUST BE A BLUFF.

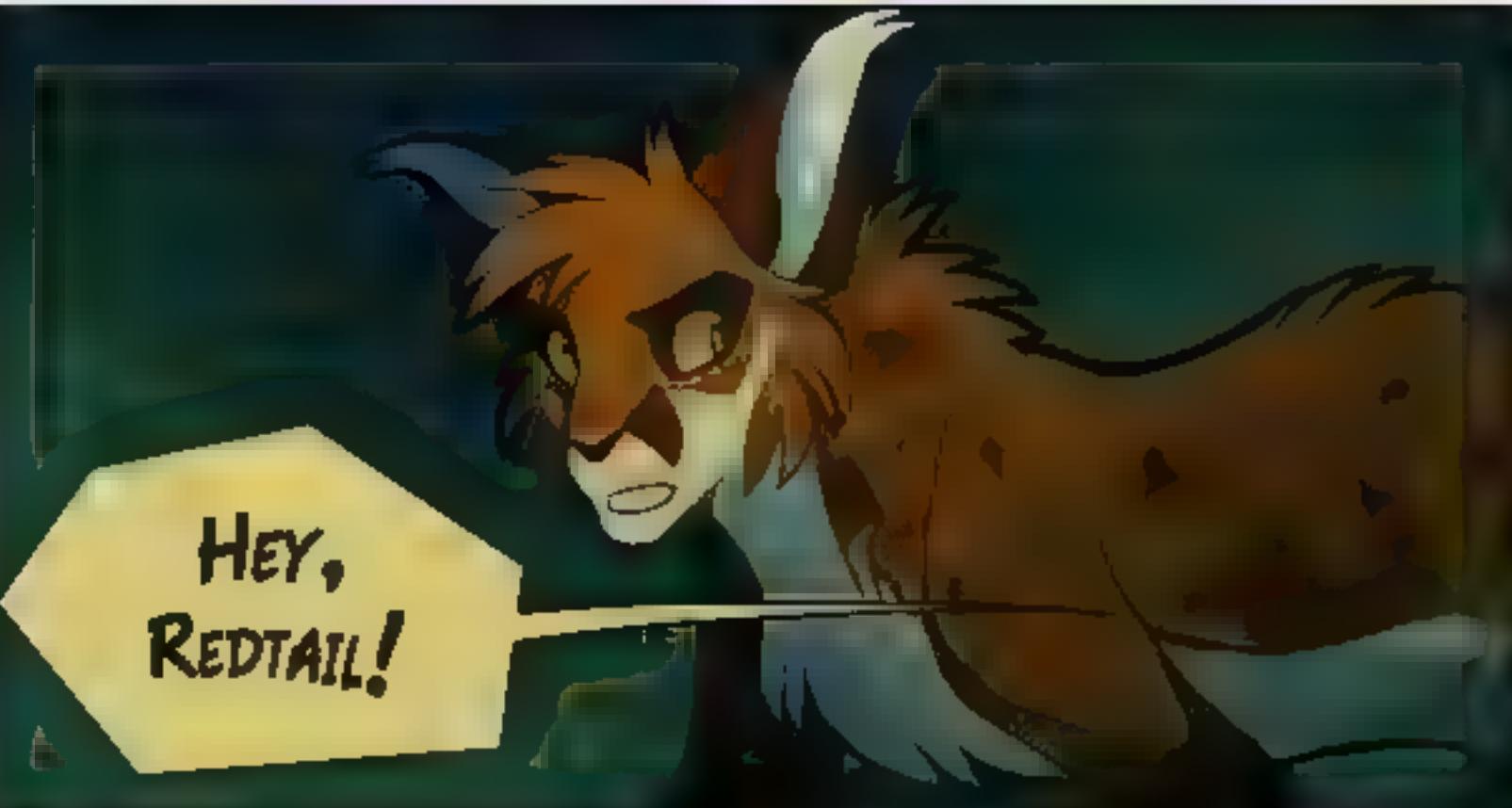


WE'LL FIND OUT
SOON ENOUGH.











IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I DIDN'T SEE YOU AT
THE LAST GATHERING.



HOW ARE THINGS
IN THUNDERCLAN?

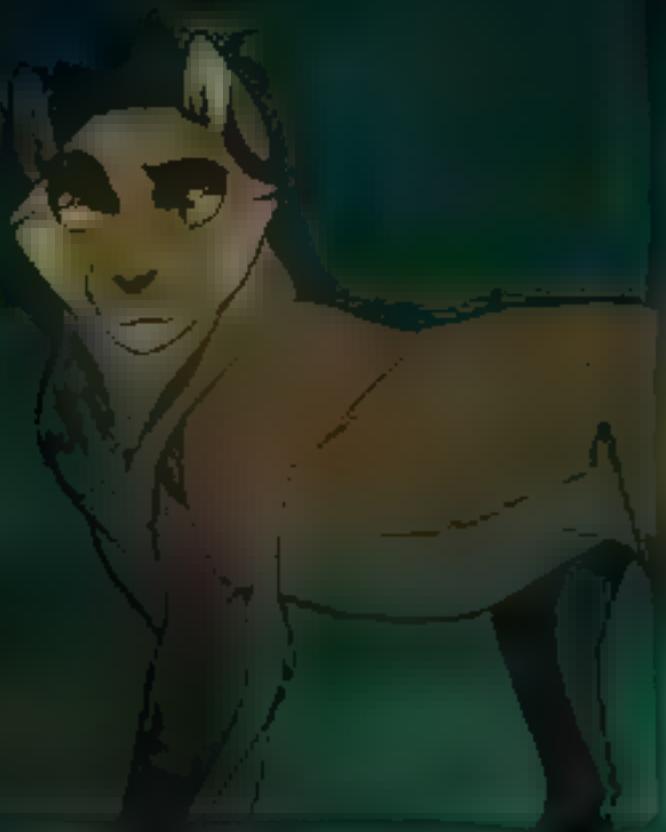


WE'RE FINE,
OAKHEART.



AND BLUESTAR?
SHE'S WELL?

WHY DO YOU CARE.





DESPITE OUR
DIFFERENCES, I DO RESPECT
MY NEIGHBORS.



AND YOURS IS A WISE
AND INTELLIGENT LEADER.

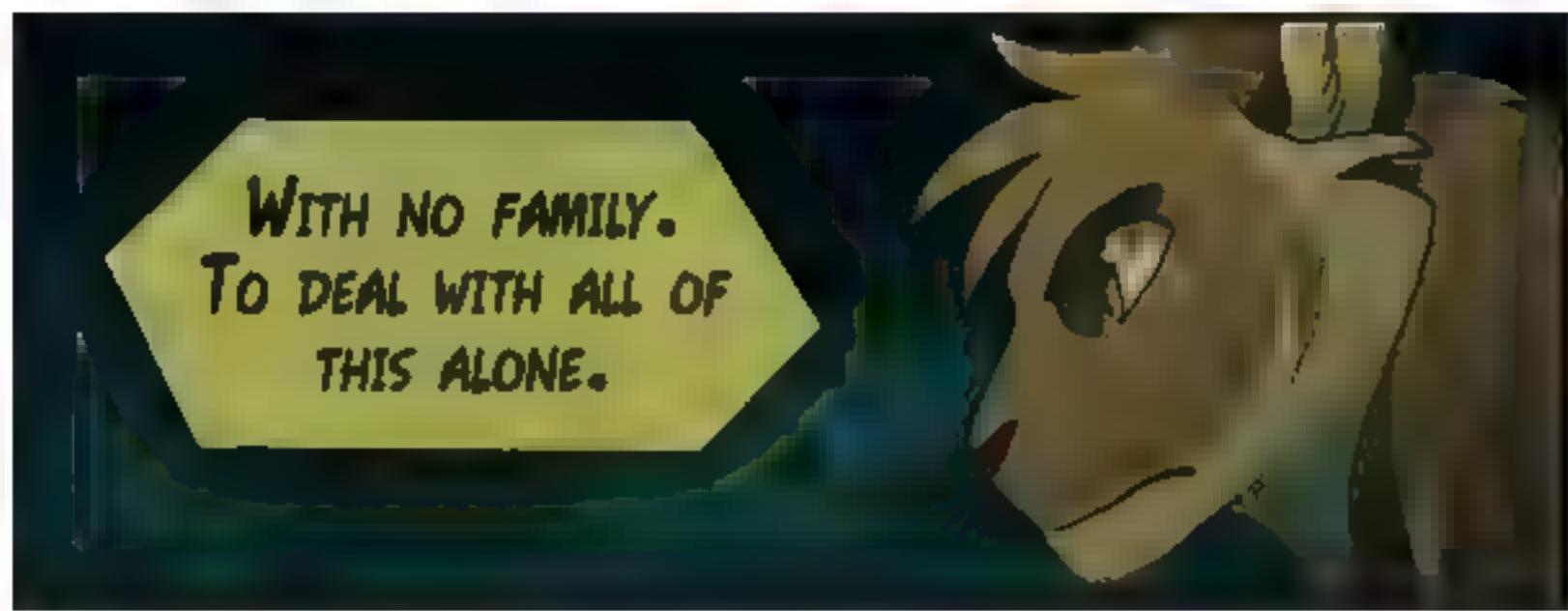
I HOPE SHE
CONTINUES TO LEAD
YOUR CLAN WELL.



THEN WHY DID YOU
LEAVE HER?



...I'M SORRY?





Guapo

HOW LONG HAVE
YOU KNOWN?

ABOUT A MOON.

YOU'RE LUCKY
NO ONE ELSE HAS
NOTICED.

IT ISN'T HARD
TO FIGURE OUT.





WHY NOT JUST
JOIN THUNDERCLAN?

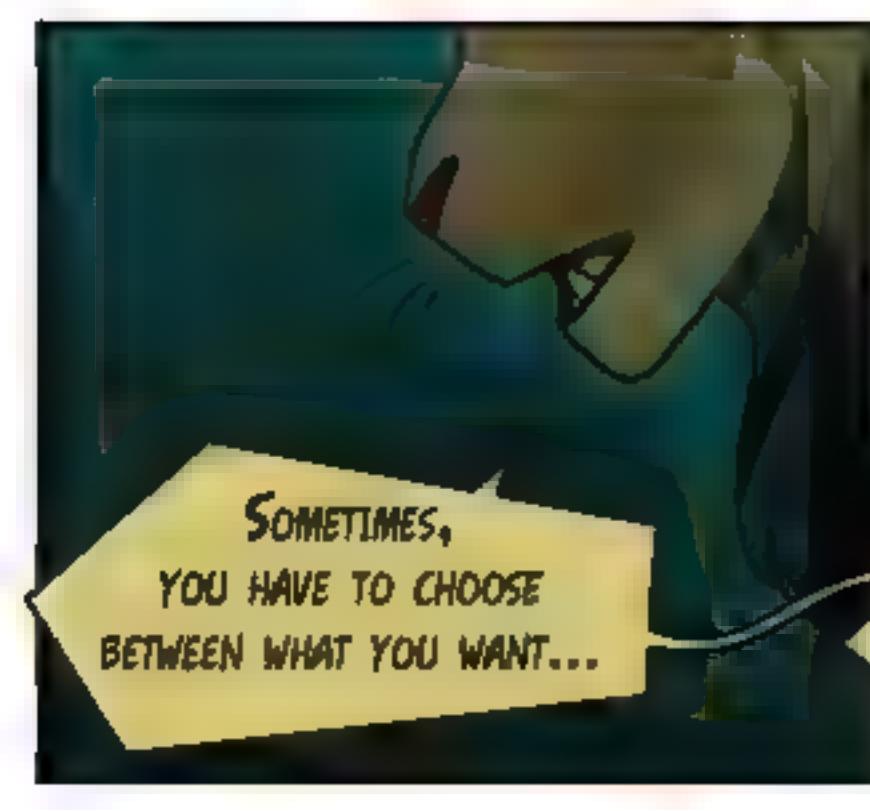
AND LEAVE MY
BROTHER?



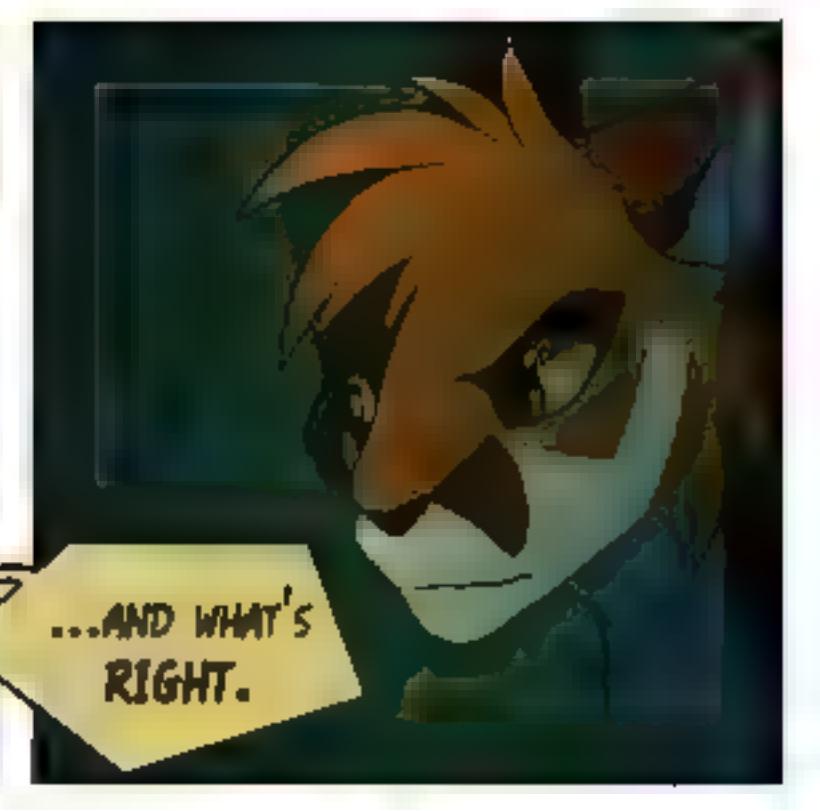
I DON'T EXPECT
YOU TO UNDERSTAND-

You're right,
I don't.

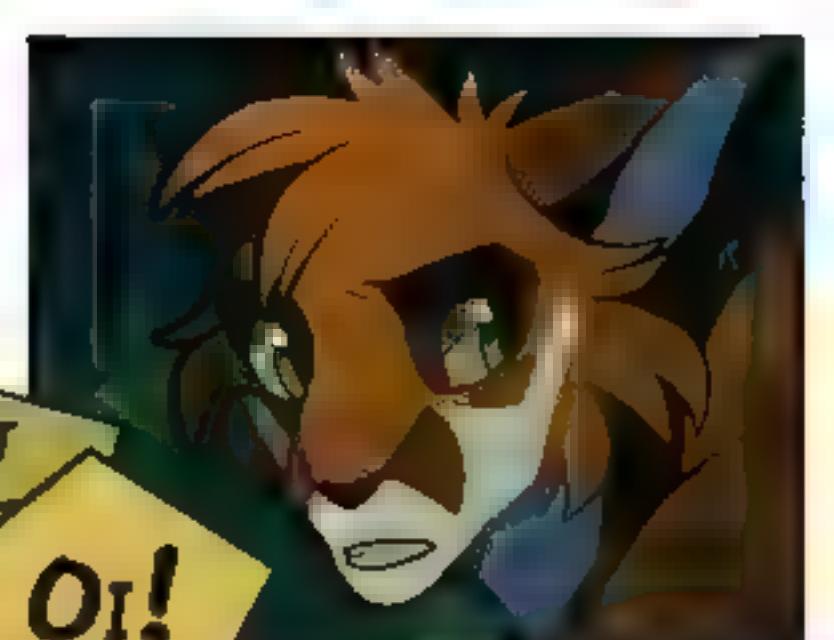
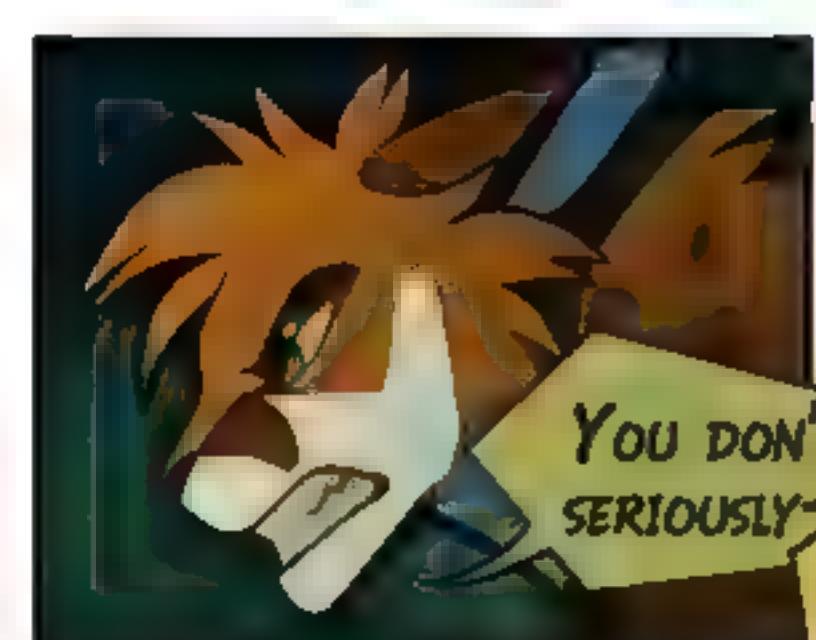
BUT I BELIEVE WE
DID THE RIGHT THING.



SOMETIMES,
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN WHAT YOU WANT...

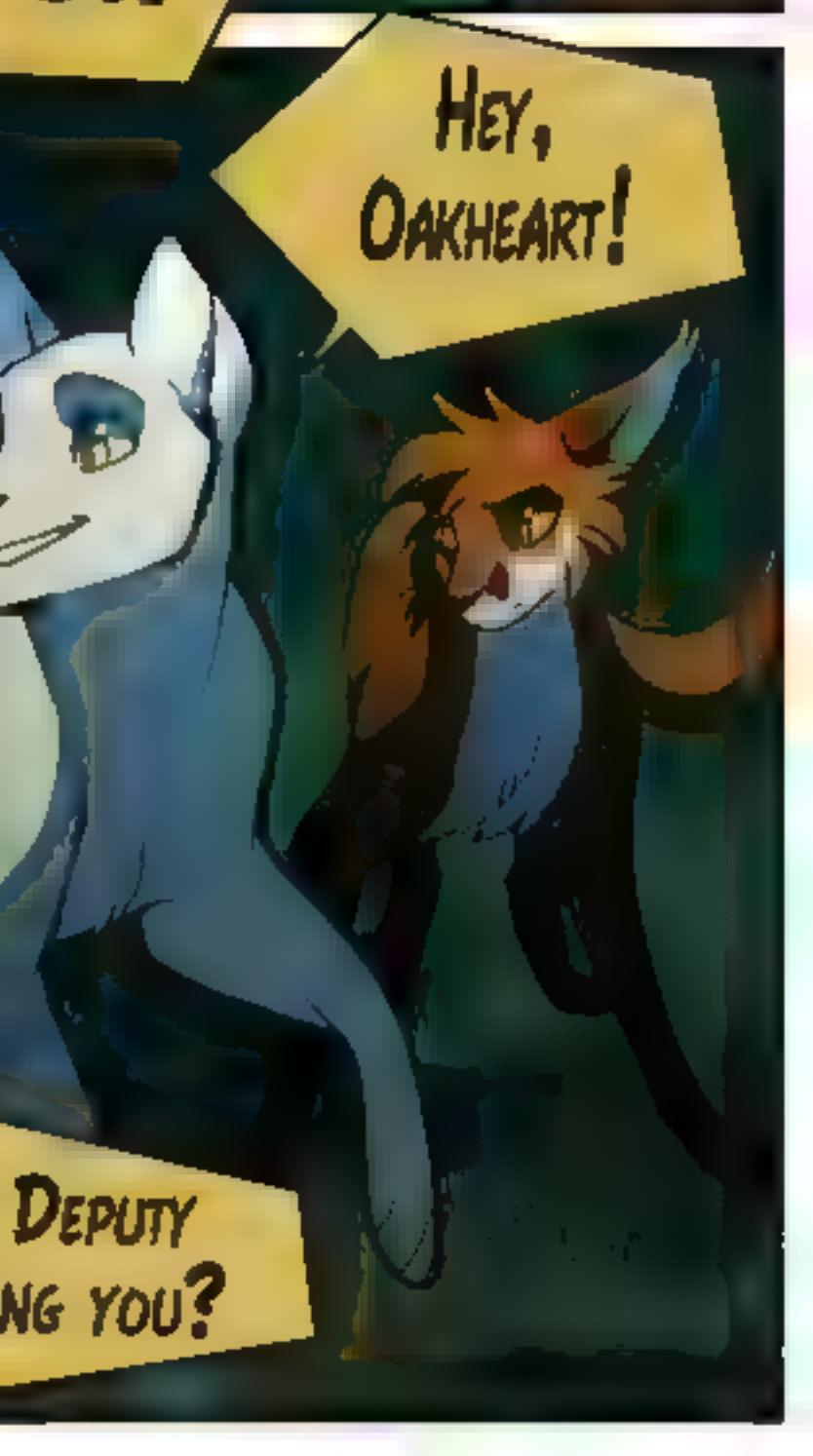
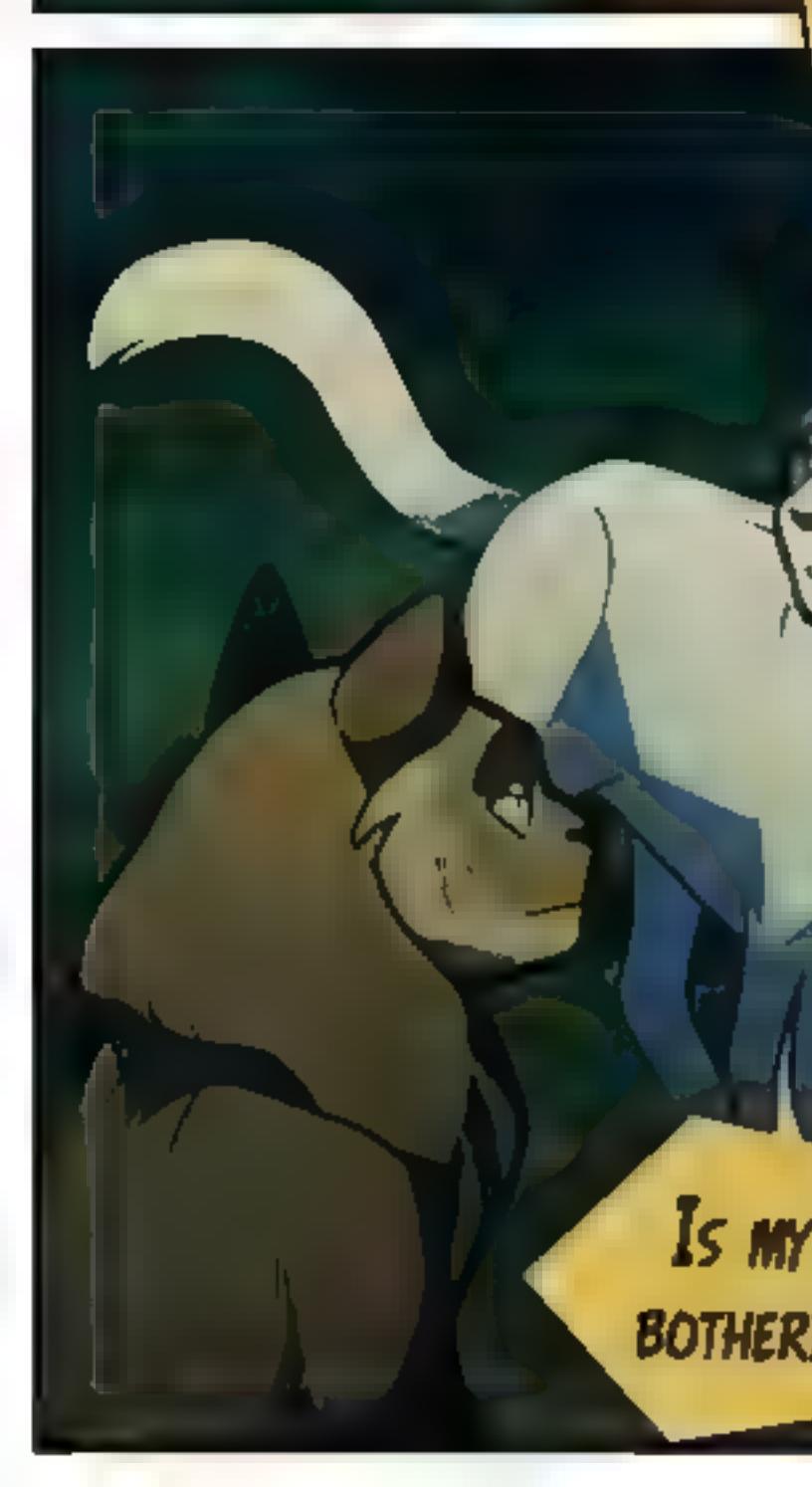


...AND WHAT'S
RIGHT.



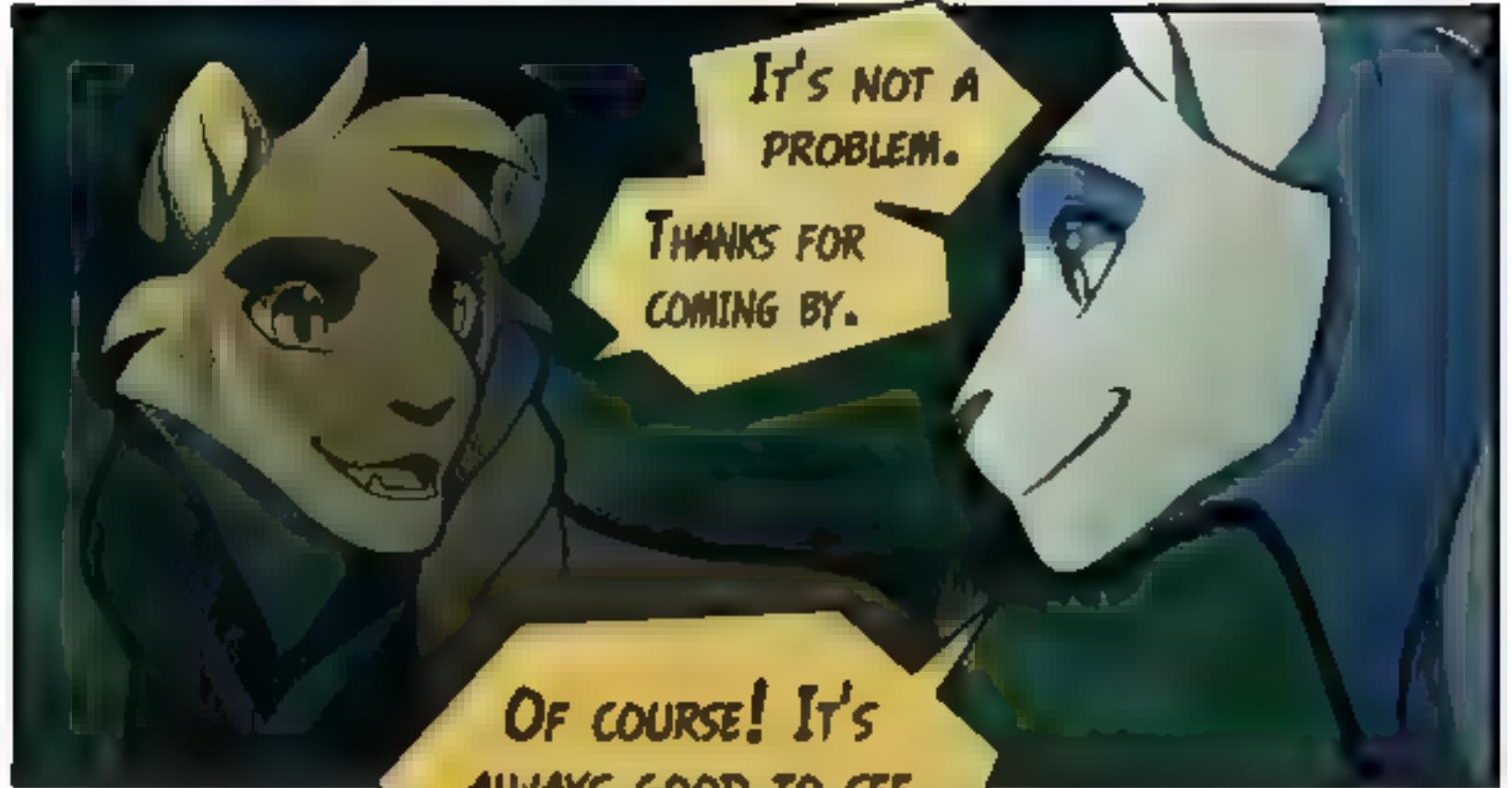
YOU DON'T
SERIOUSLY--

Oi!



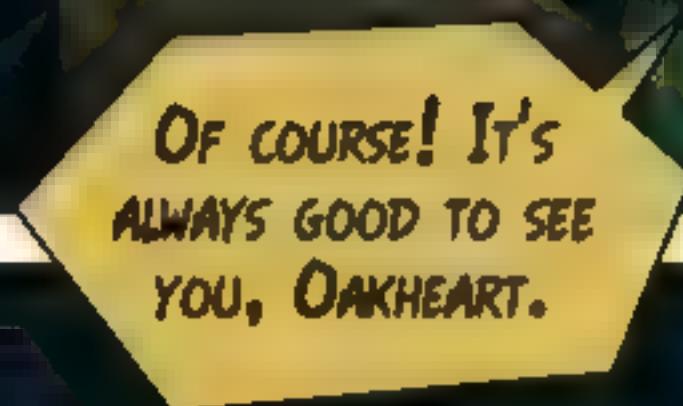
HEY,
OAKHEART!

Is my DEPUTY
BOthering you?

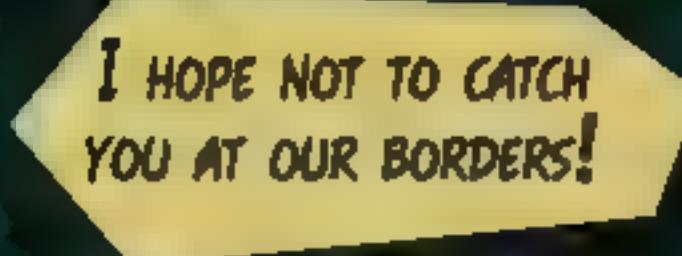


IT'S NOT A
PROBLEM.

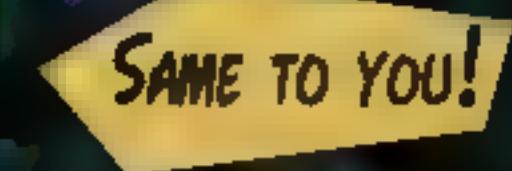
THANKS FOR
COMING BY.



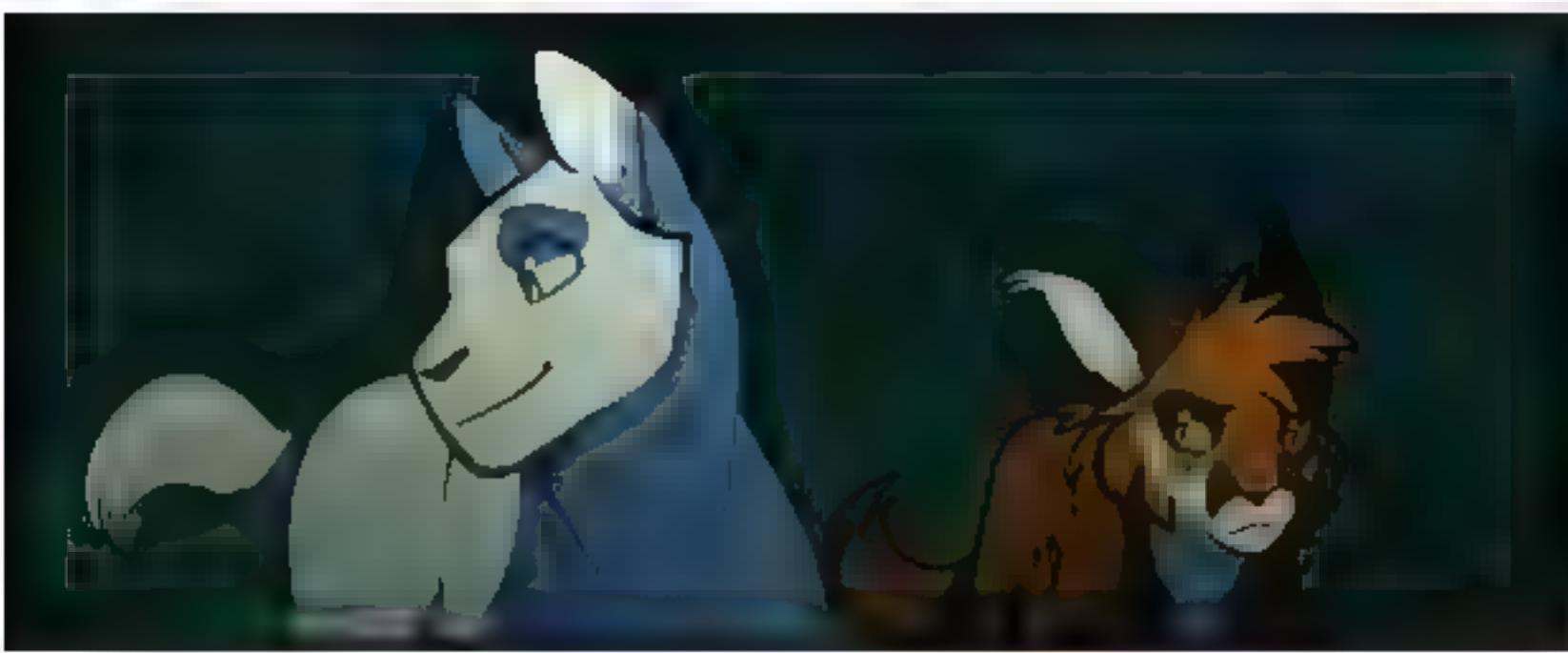
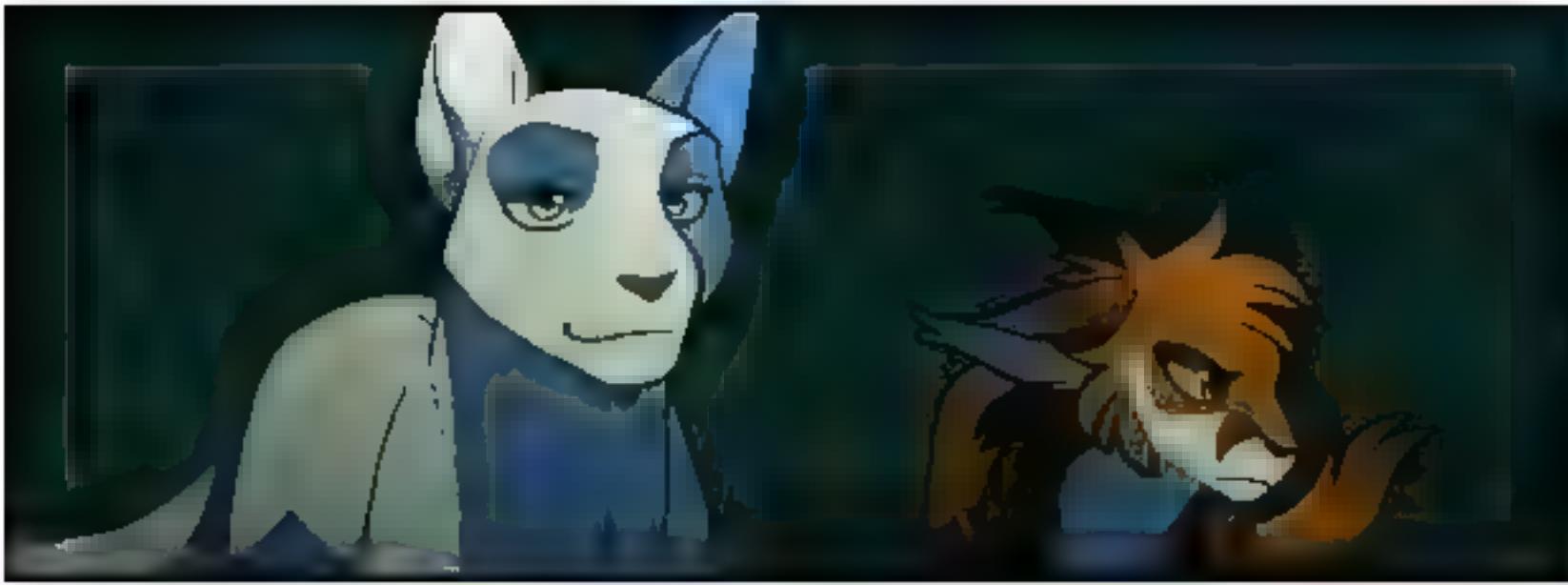
OF COURSE! IT'S
ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE
YOU, OAKHEART.



I HOPE NOT TO CATCH
YOU AT OUR BORDERS!



SAME TO YOU!





DO YOU WANT TO GET
BLUESTAR IN TROUBLE?

AT A GATHERING,
NO LESS?

IT ISN'T RIGHT
SHE GAVE IT ALL UP,
FOR NOTHING.

MY AUNT IS MANY
THINGS, RETAIL.

BUT YOU'RE DISREGARDING
EVERYTHING SHE'S DONE FOR US.

THE SACRIFICES SHE'S MADE
HAVE TO BE WORTH IT.



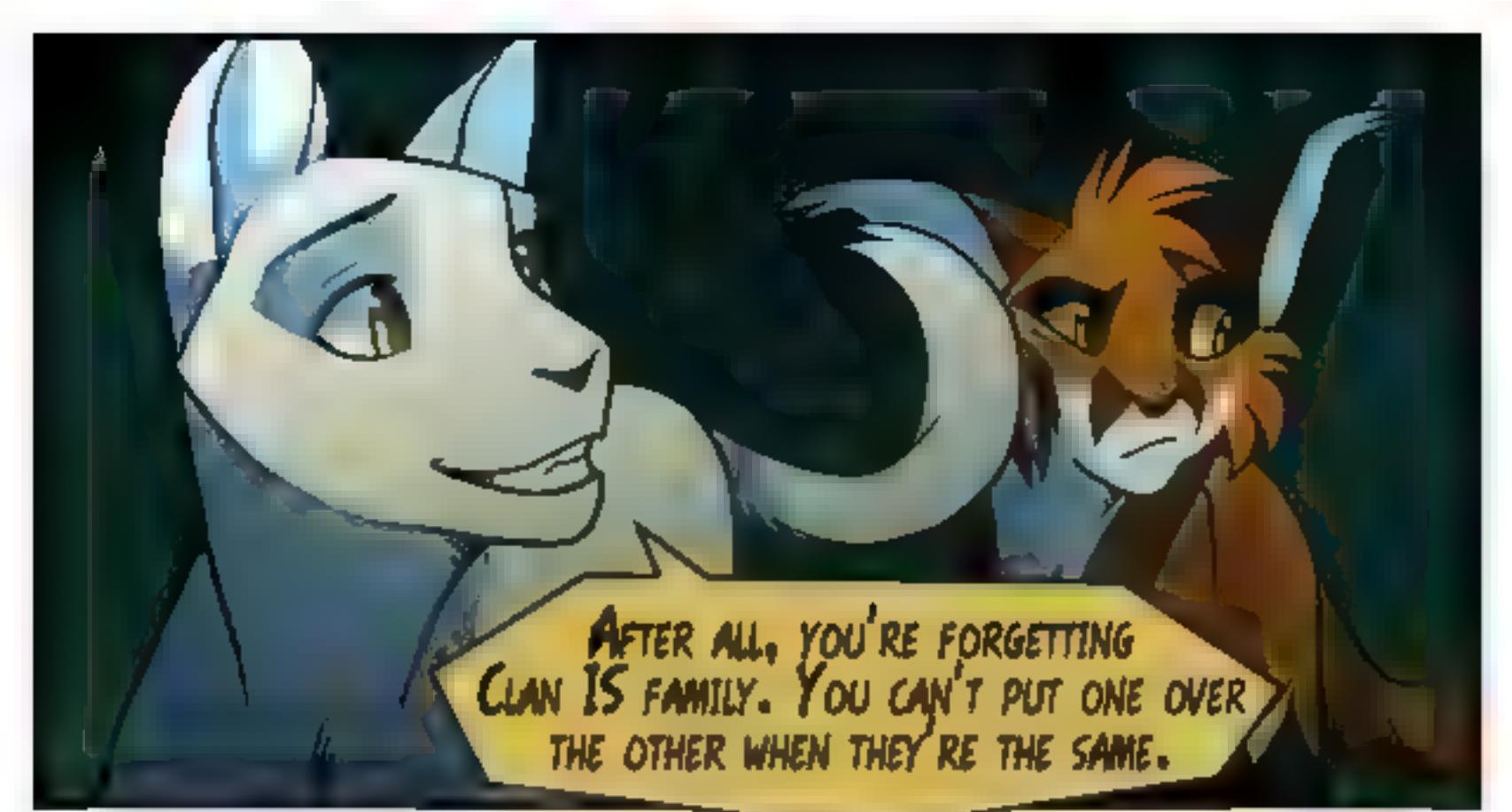
IS IT EVER WORTH IT
TO LEAVE YOUR FAMILY
FOR YOUR CLAN?

SHE MADE HER
CHOICE. ALL WE CAN
DO IS RESPECT IT.

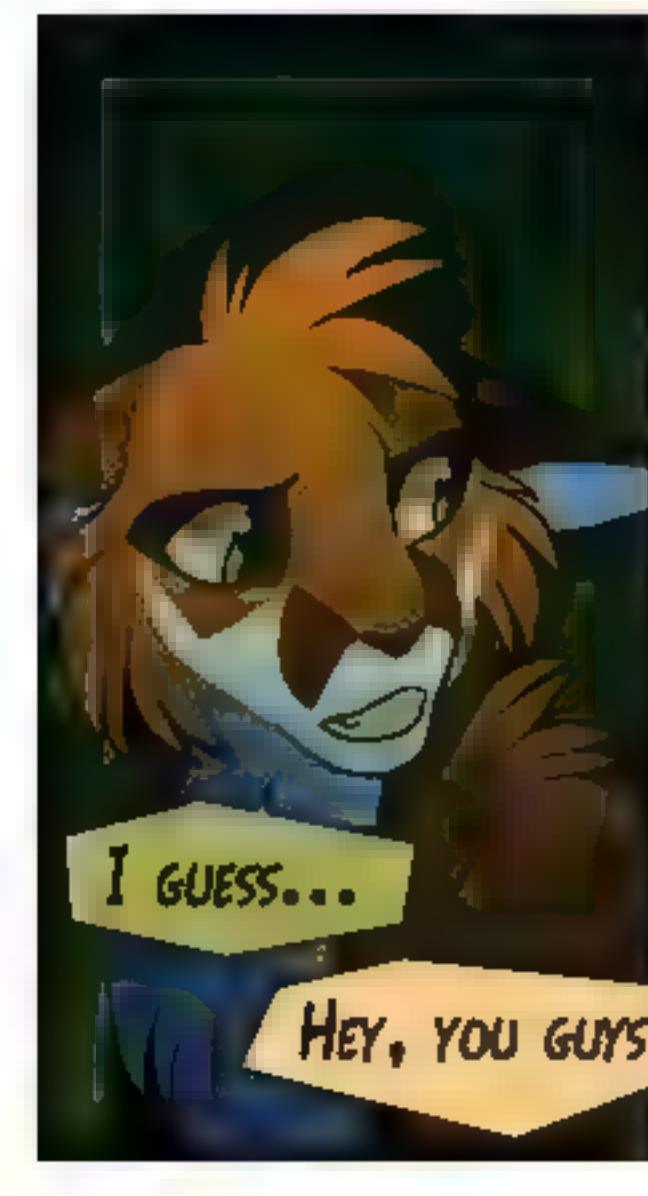


ONE DAY, WE
MAY HAVE TO MAKE A
SIMILAR DECISION.

FOR THE SAKE
OF OUR CLAN.

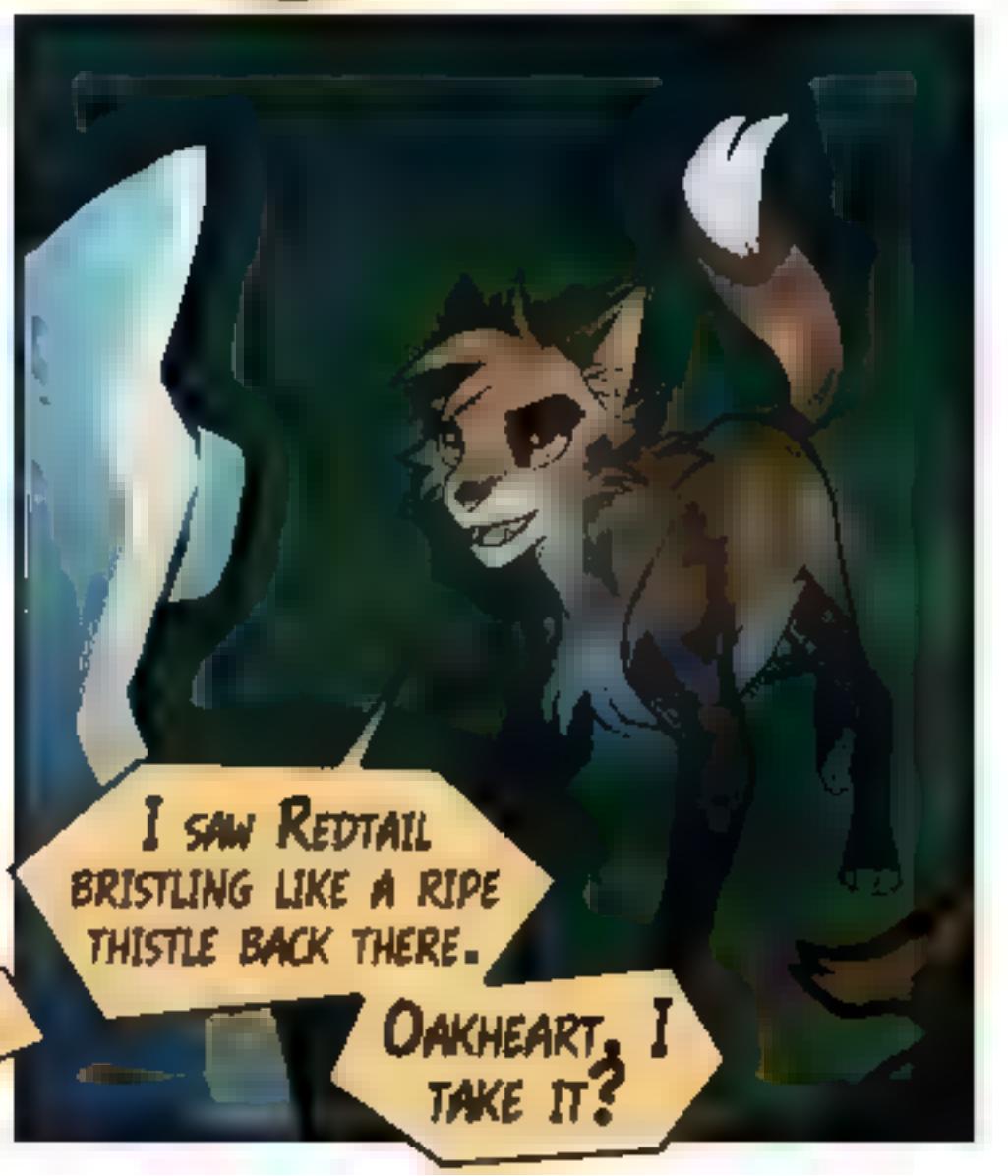


AFTER ALL, YOU'RE FORGETTING
CLAN IS FAMILY. YOU CAN'T PUT ONE OVER
THE OTHER WHEN THEY'RE THE SAME.



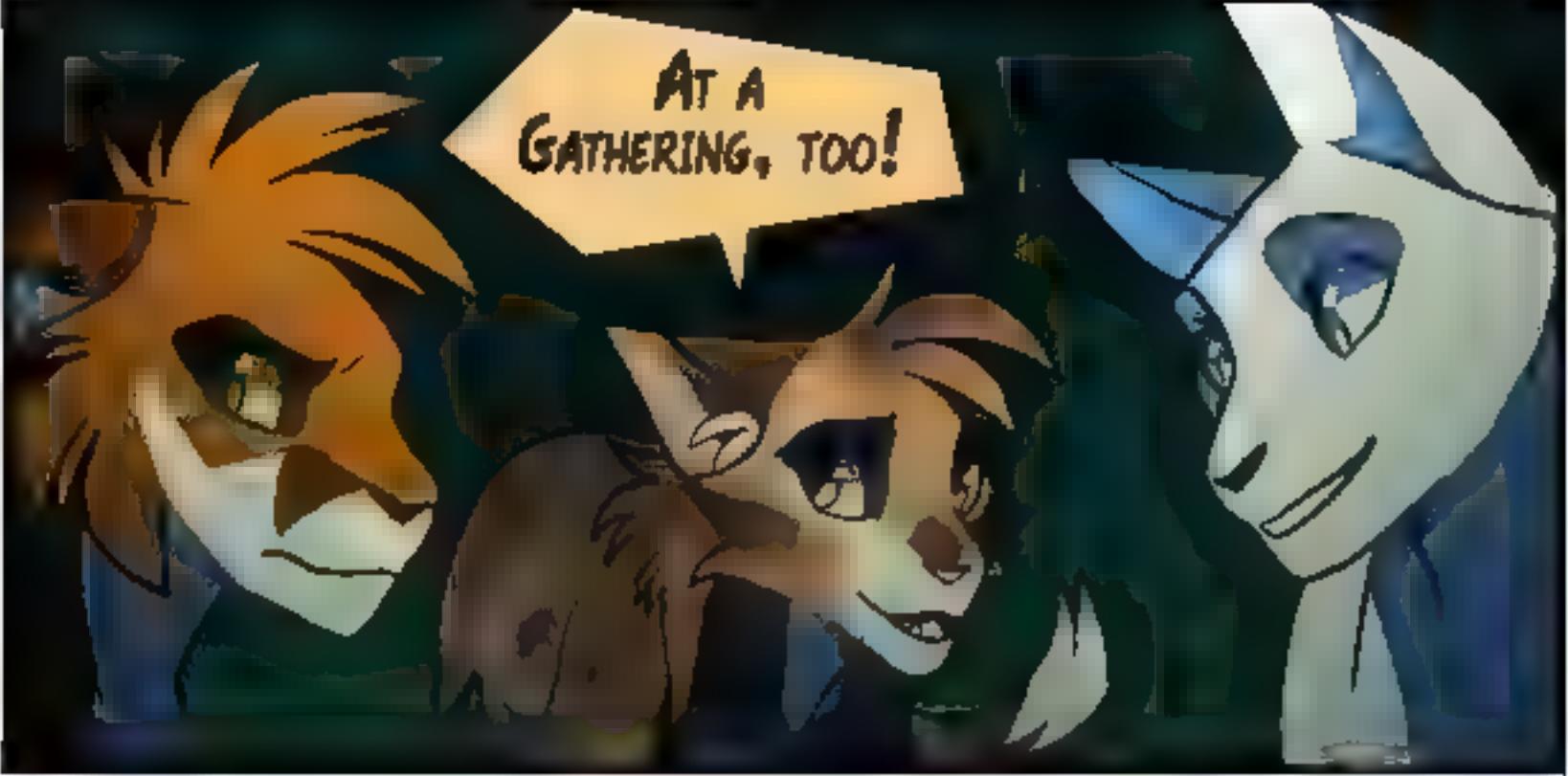
I GUESS...

HEY, YOU GUYS.



I SAW REDTAIL
BRISTLING LIKE A RIPE
THISTLE BACK THERE.

OAKHEART, I
TAKE IT?

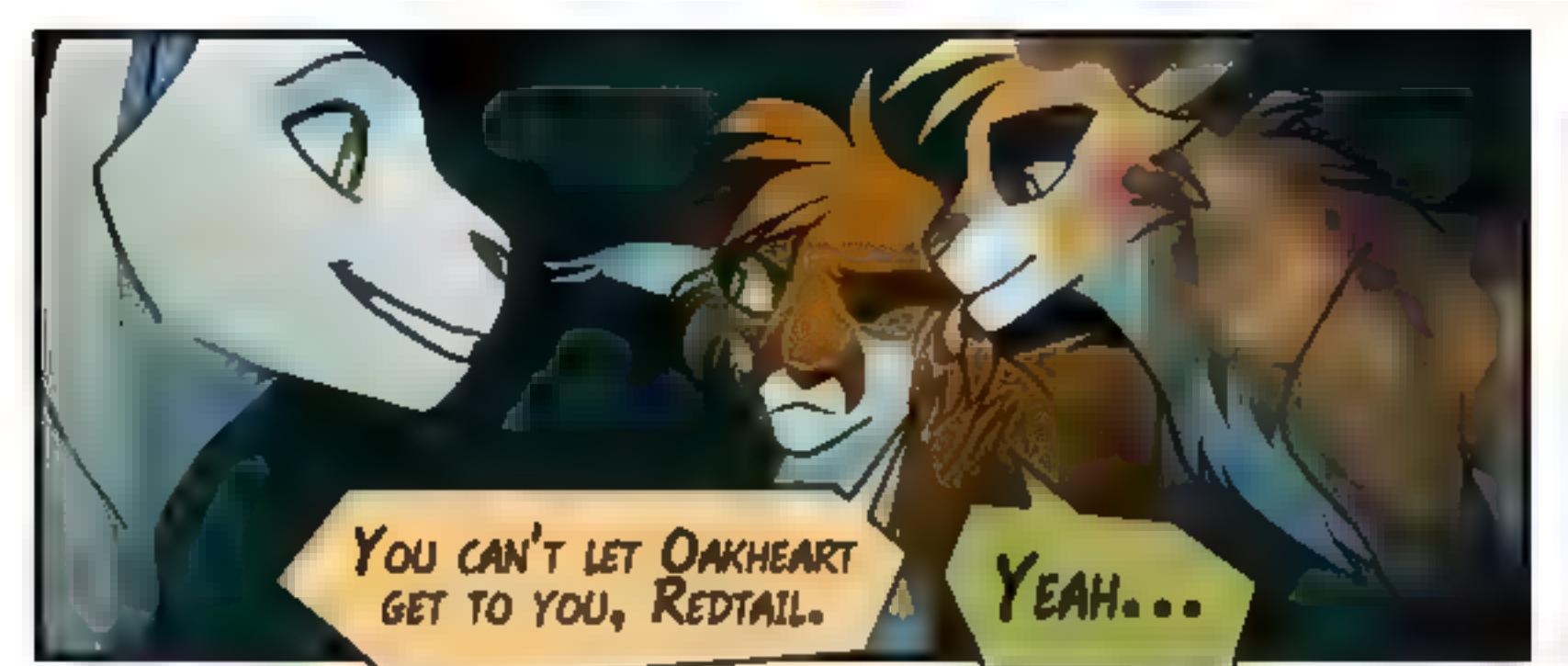


AT A
GATHERING, TOO!



I THOUGHT YOU
WERE CHATTING WITH
THE MEDICINE CATS.

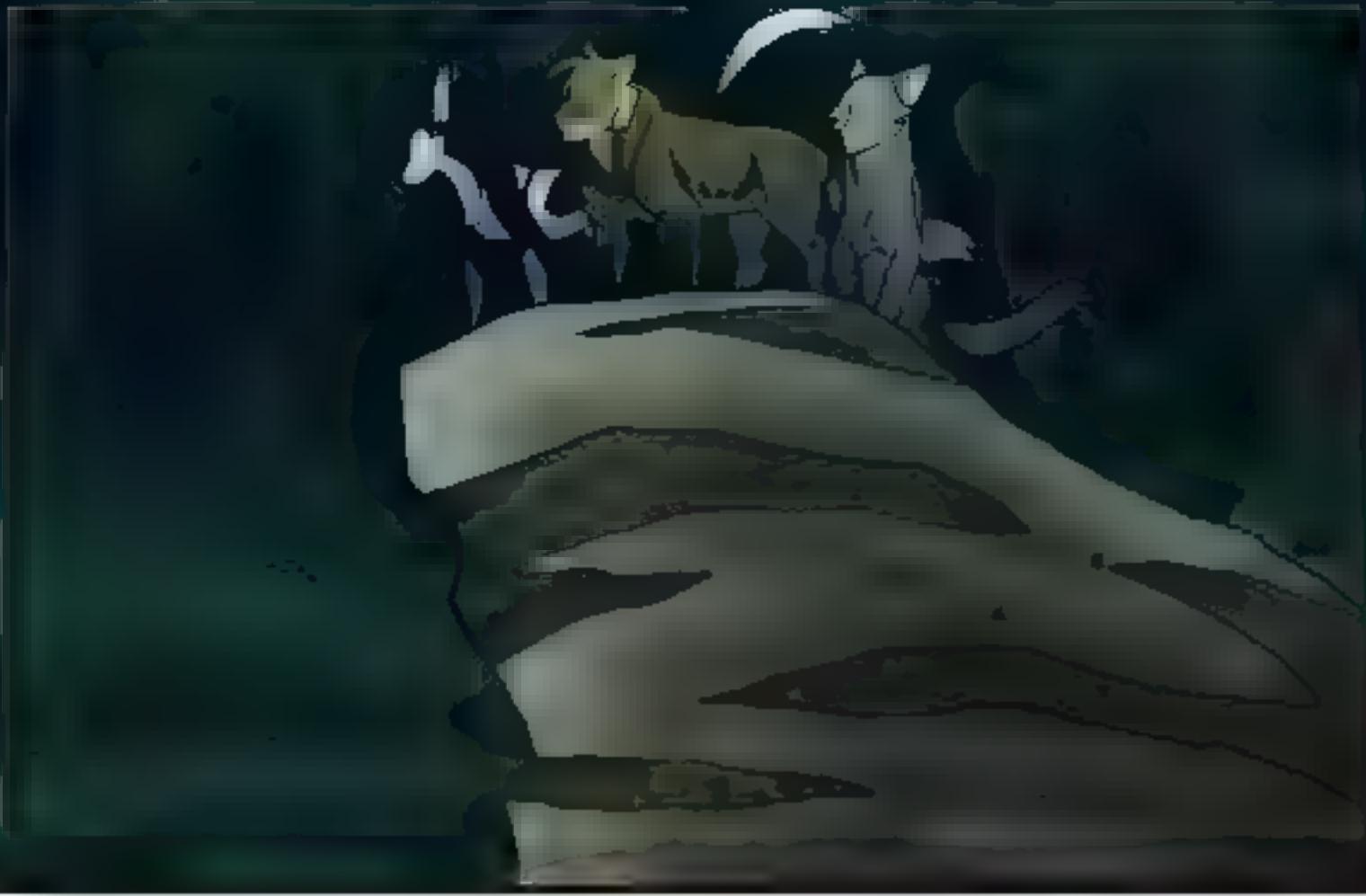
WELL, MUDFUR WAS
DISCUSSING HIS WARRIOR DAYS,
AND IT'S NOT MY THING, SO I
CAME TO CHECK ON YOU.



YOU CAN'T LET OAKHEART
GET TO YOU, REDTAIL.

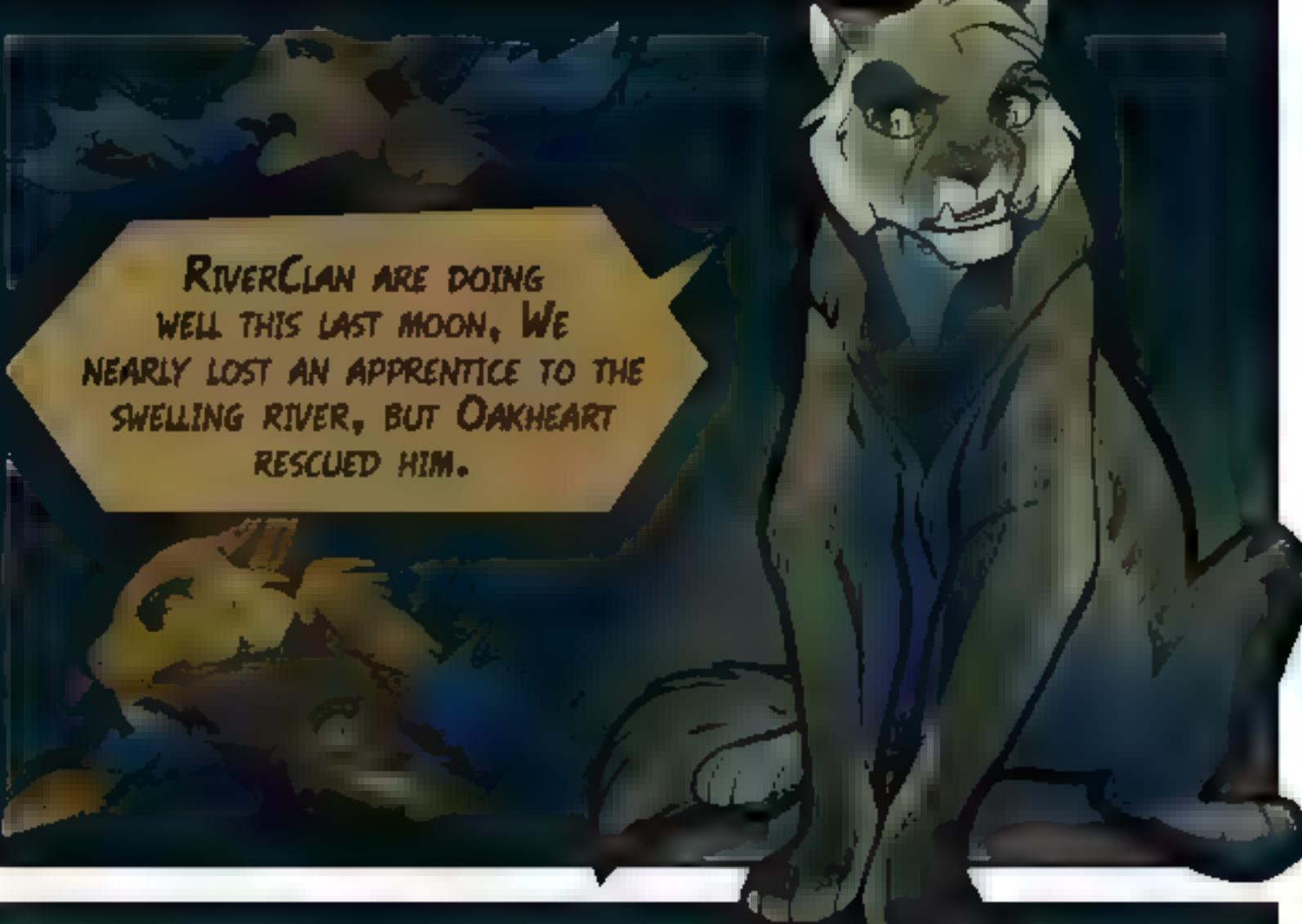
YEAH...





IT APPEARS SHADOWCLAN
HAVE NO INTENTION OF
SHOWING THEMSELVES.

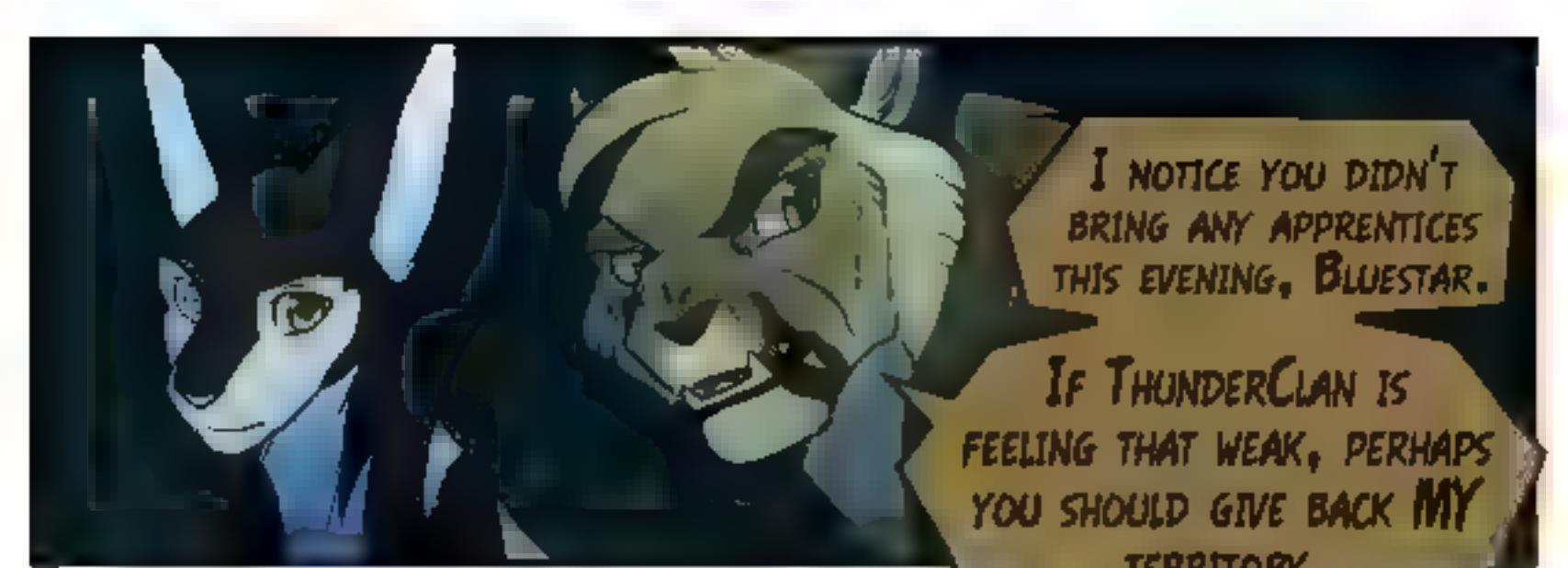




RIVERCLAN ARE DOING
WELL THIS LAST MOON. WE
NEARLY LOST AN APPRENTICE TO THE
SWELLING RIVER, BUT OAKHEART
RESCUED HIM.

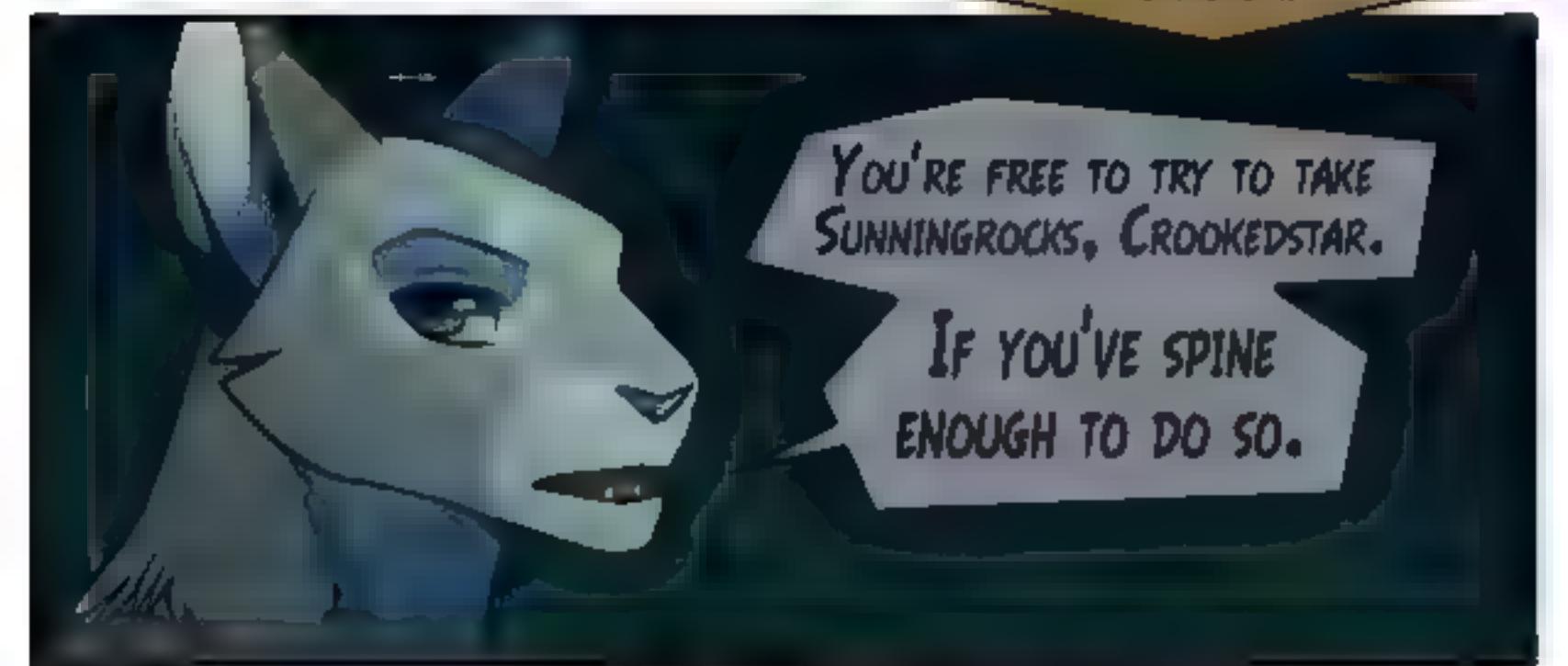


WE HAVE A NEW
APPRENTICE IN SILVERPAW
AS WELL.



I NOTICE YOU DIDN'T
BRING ANY APPRENTICES
THIS EVENING, BLUESTAR.

IF THUNDERCLAN IS
FEELING THAT WEAK, PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD GIVE BACK MY
TERRITORY.

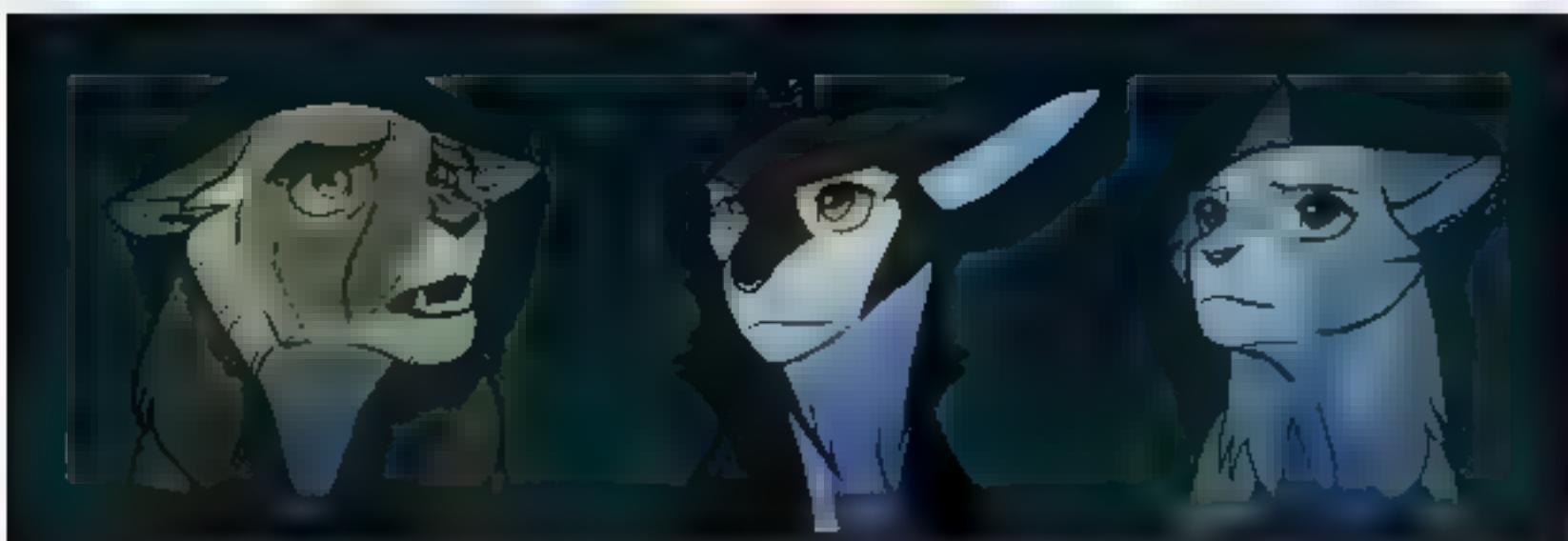


YOU'RE FREE TO TRY TO TAKE
SUNNINGROCKS, CROOKEDSTAR.

IF YOU'VE SPINE
ENOUGH TO DO SO.

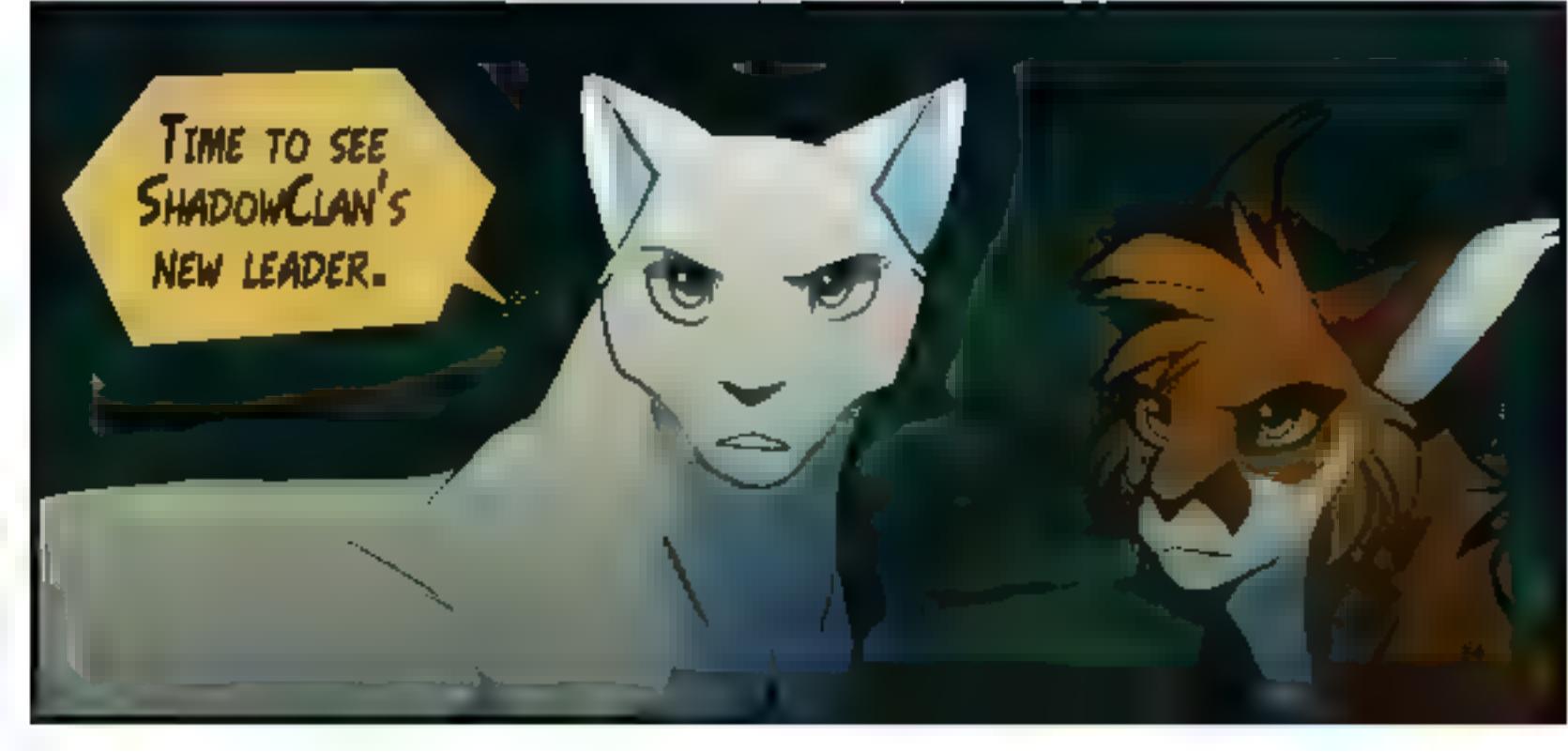
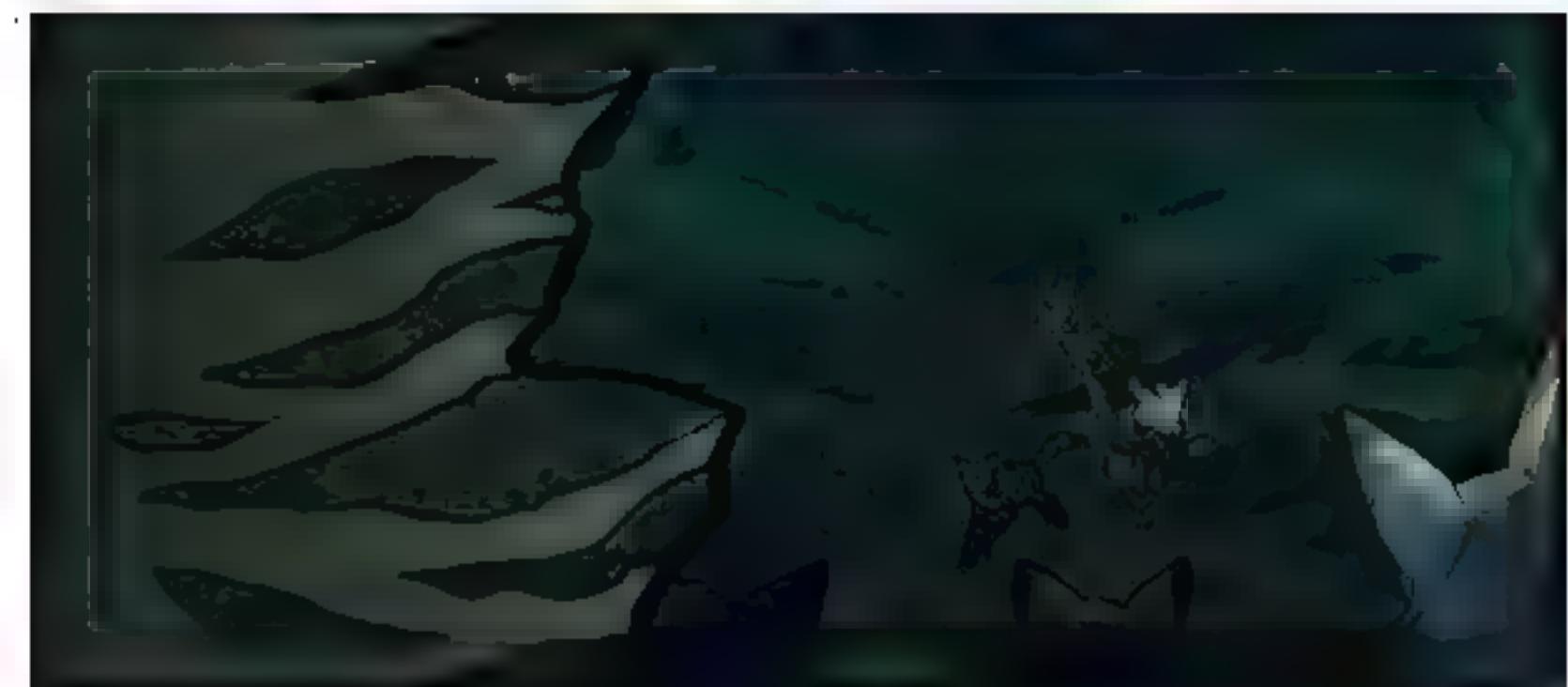
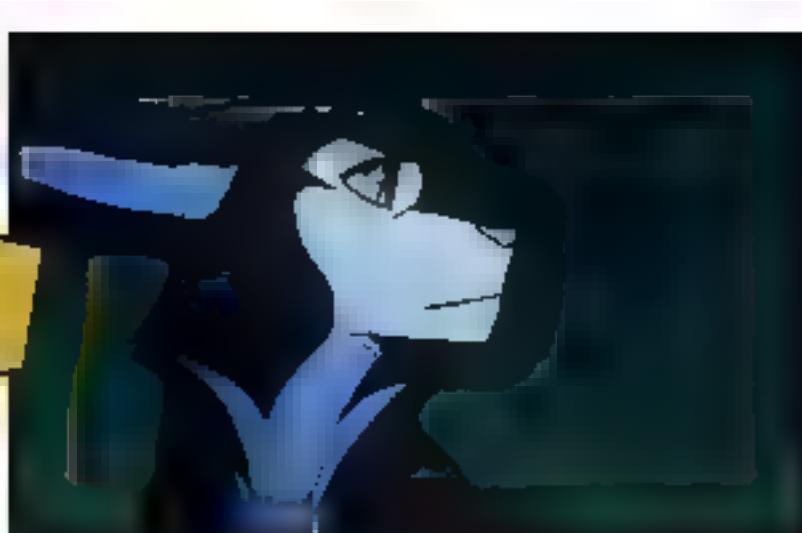


HOW DARE YOU.

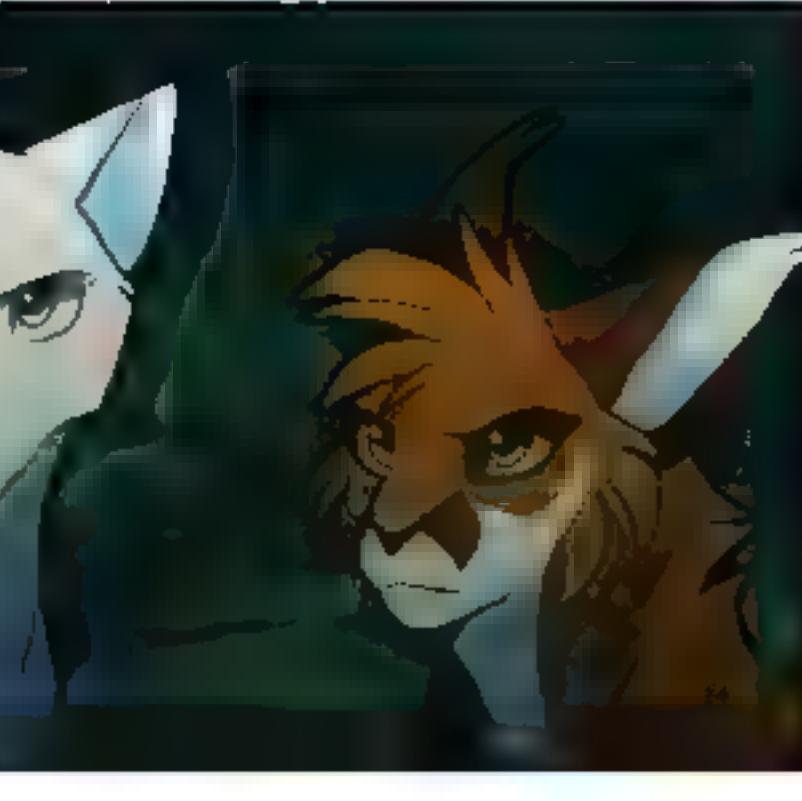




As for
WindClan...



TIME TO SEE
SHADOWCLAN'S
NEW LEADER.







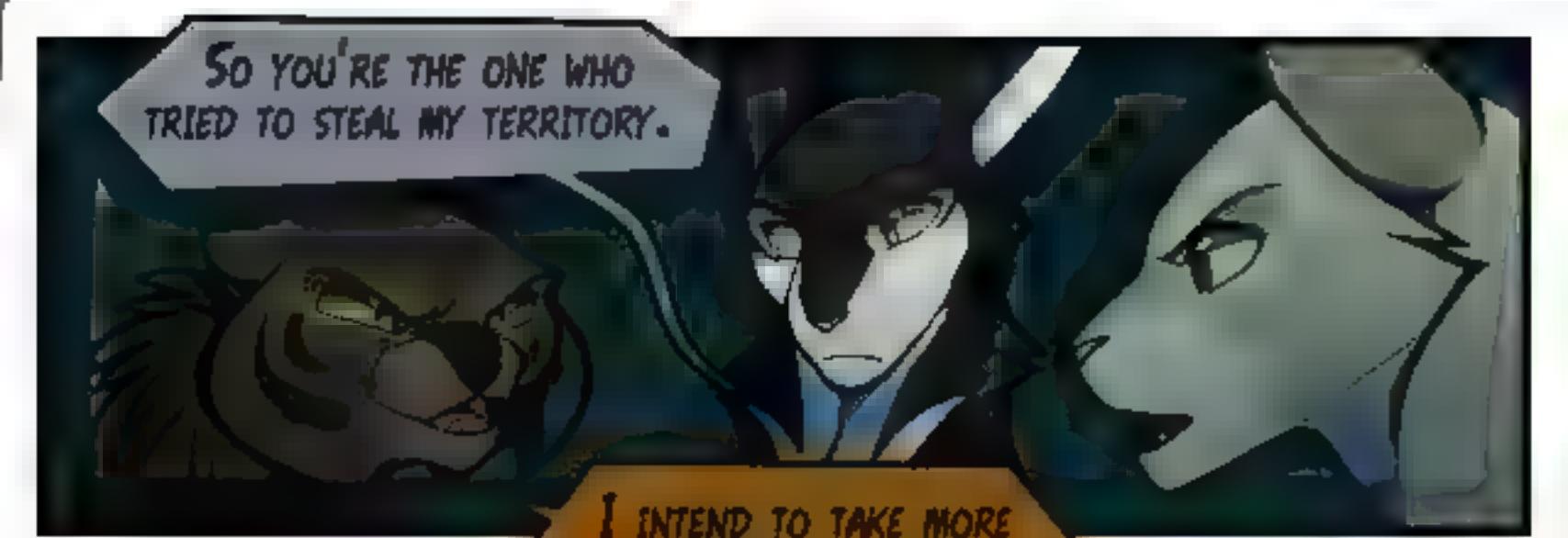
GOOD EVENING,
EVERYONE.



WHERE IS
RAGGEDSTAR?

MY FATHER WILL NOT
BE JOINING US.

HE WAS KILLED IN A
PATROL THE LAST MOON, AND
I HAVE TAKEN HIS PLACE.



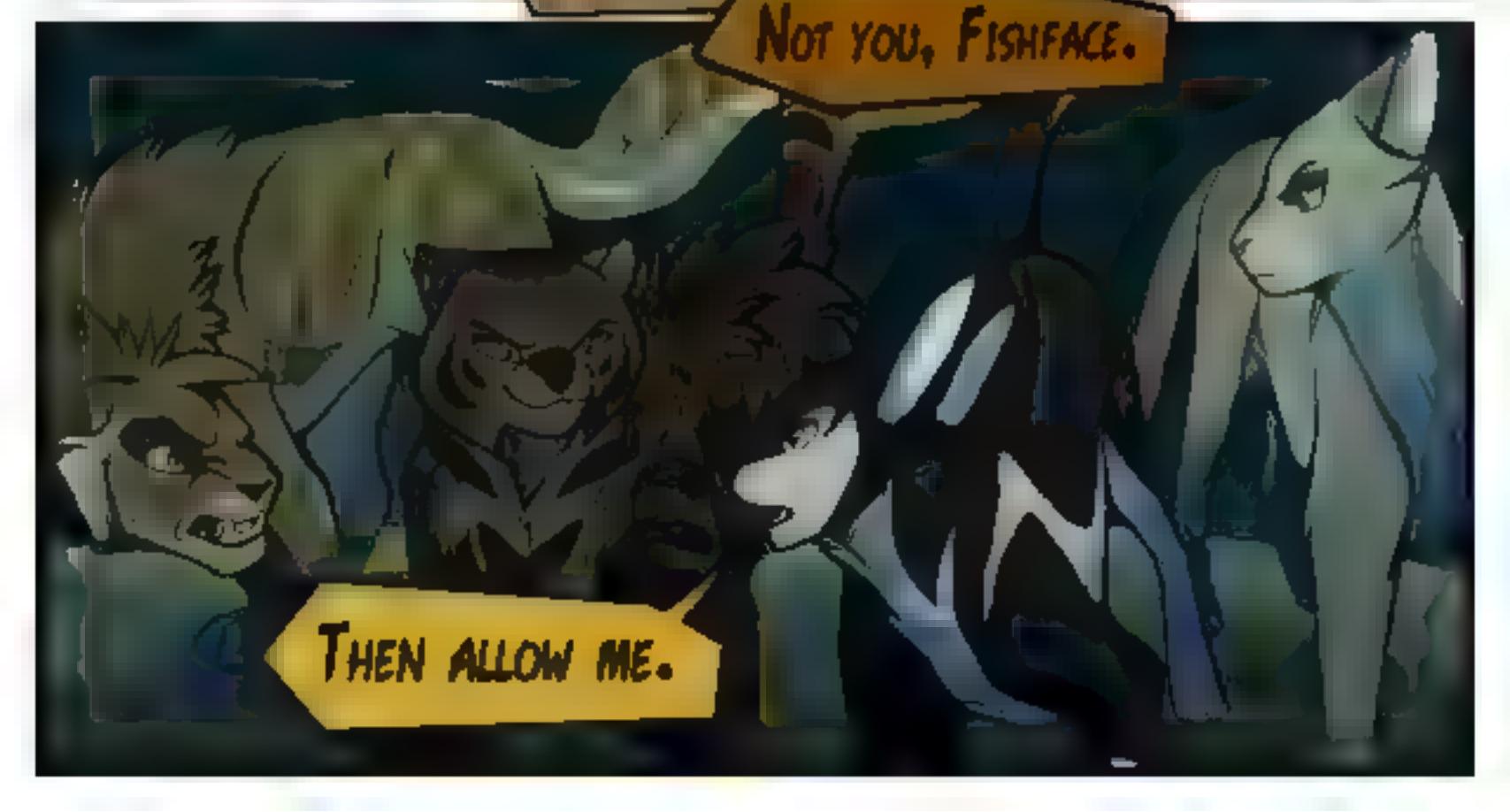
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
TRIED TO STEAL MY TERRITORY.

I INTEND TO TAKE MORE
OF **EVERY** TERRITORY.

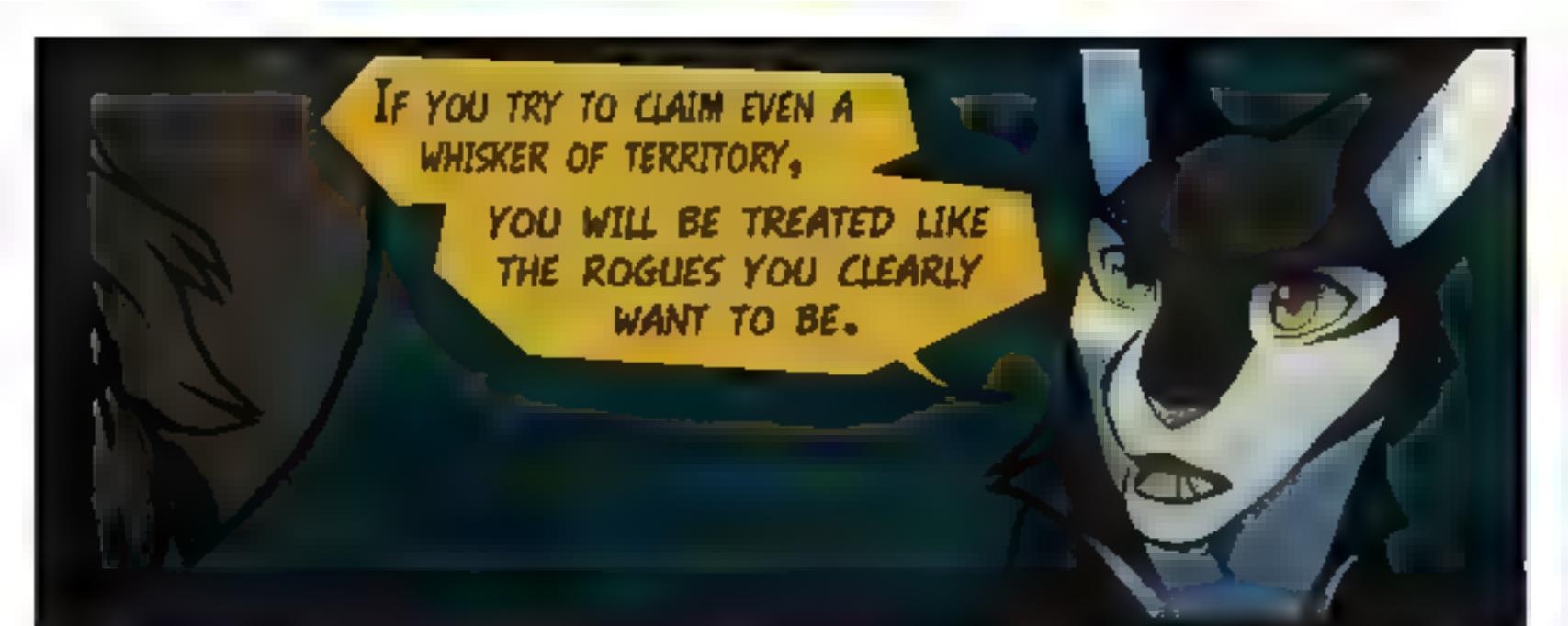


IF YOU TOUCH
RIVERCLAN LAND--

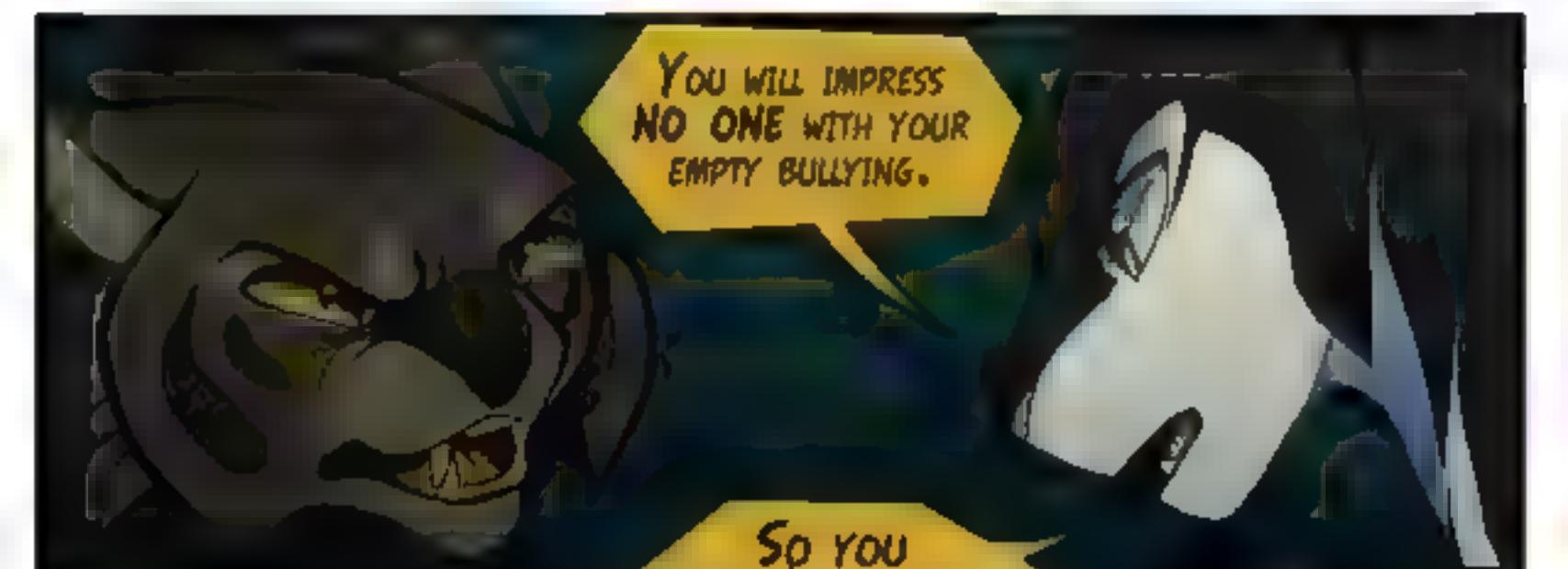
NOT YOU, FISHFACE.



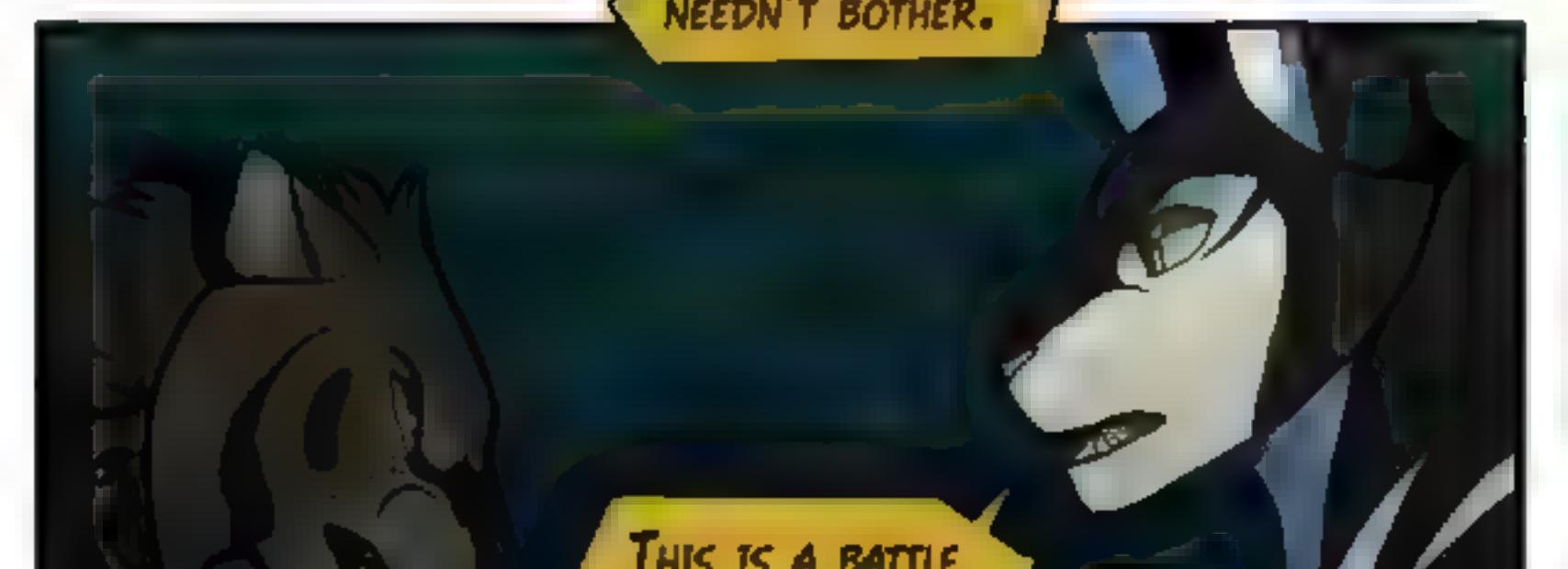
THEN ALLOW ME.



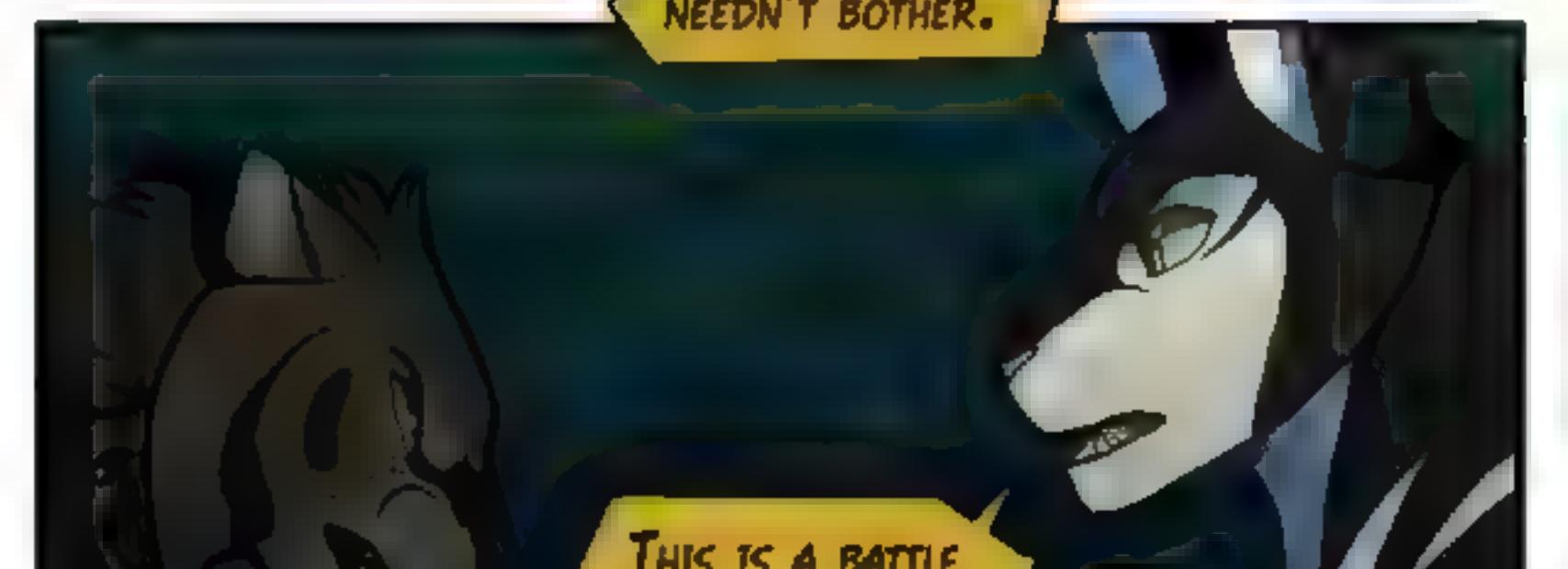
IF YOU TRY TO CLAIM EVEN A WHISKER OF TERRITORY,
YOU WILL BE TREATED LIKE THE ROGUES YOU CLEARLY WANT TO BE.



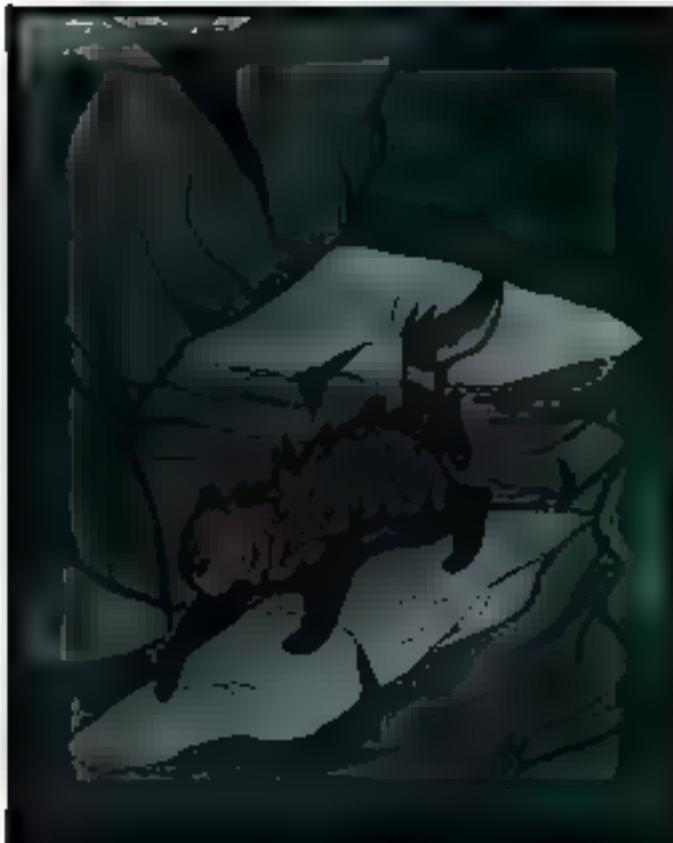
YOU WILL IMPRESS NO ONE WITH YOUR EMPTY BULLYING.



So you
NEEDN'T BOTHER.



THIS IS A BATTLE
YOU CANNOT WIN.

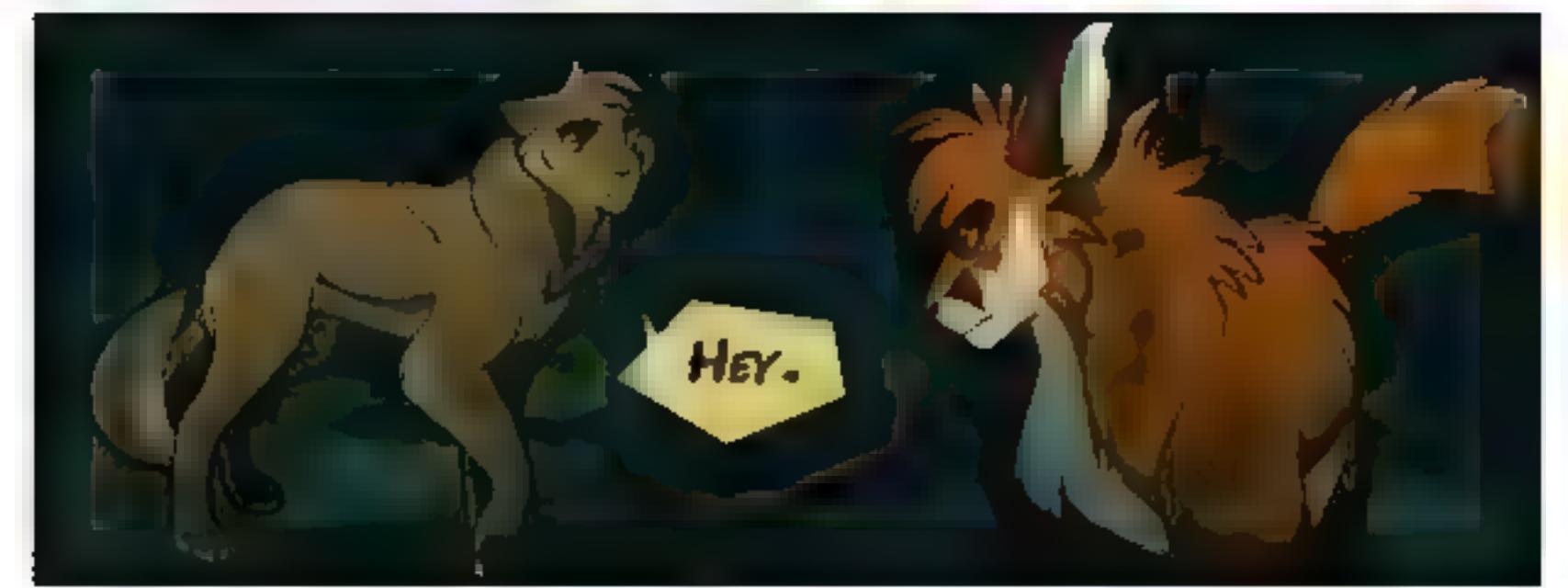




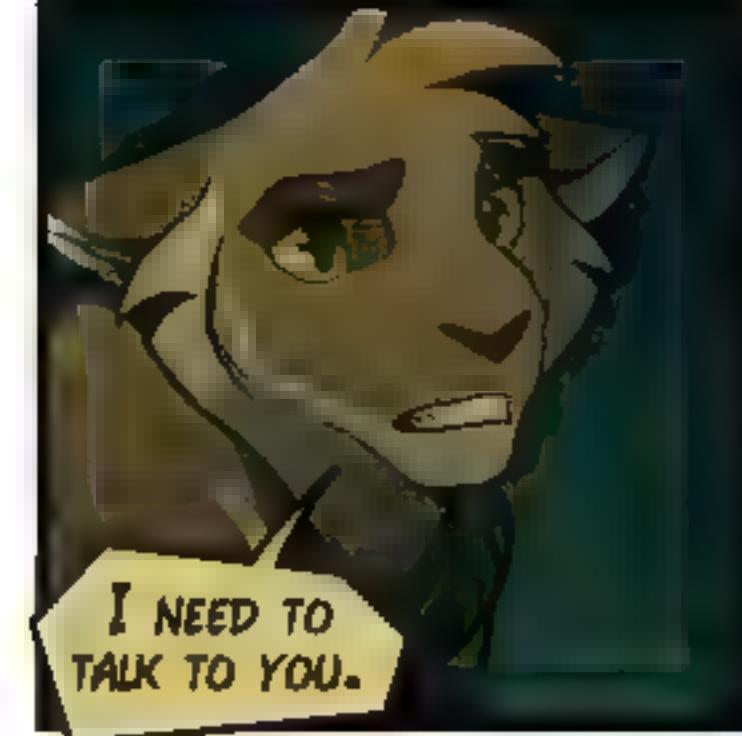
WE'D BEST LEAVE
AS WELL. IT WAS GOOD
TO SEE YOU, REDTAIL.

AND YOU!

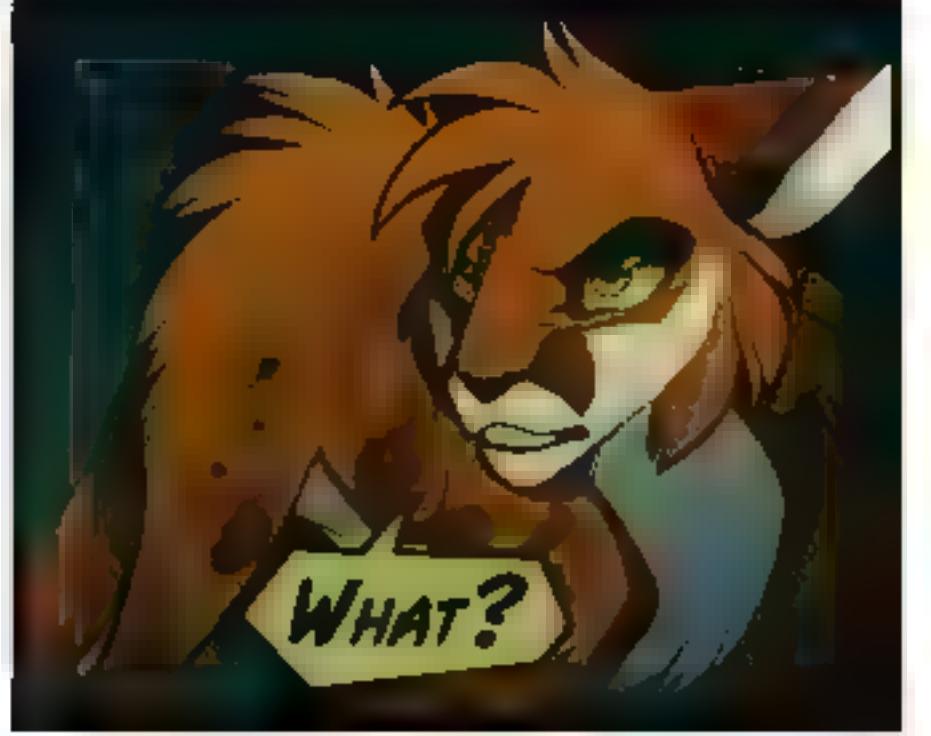
REDTAIL!



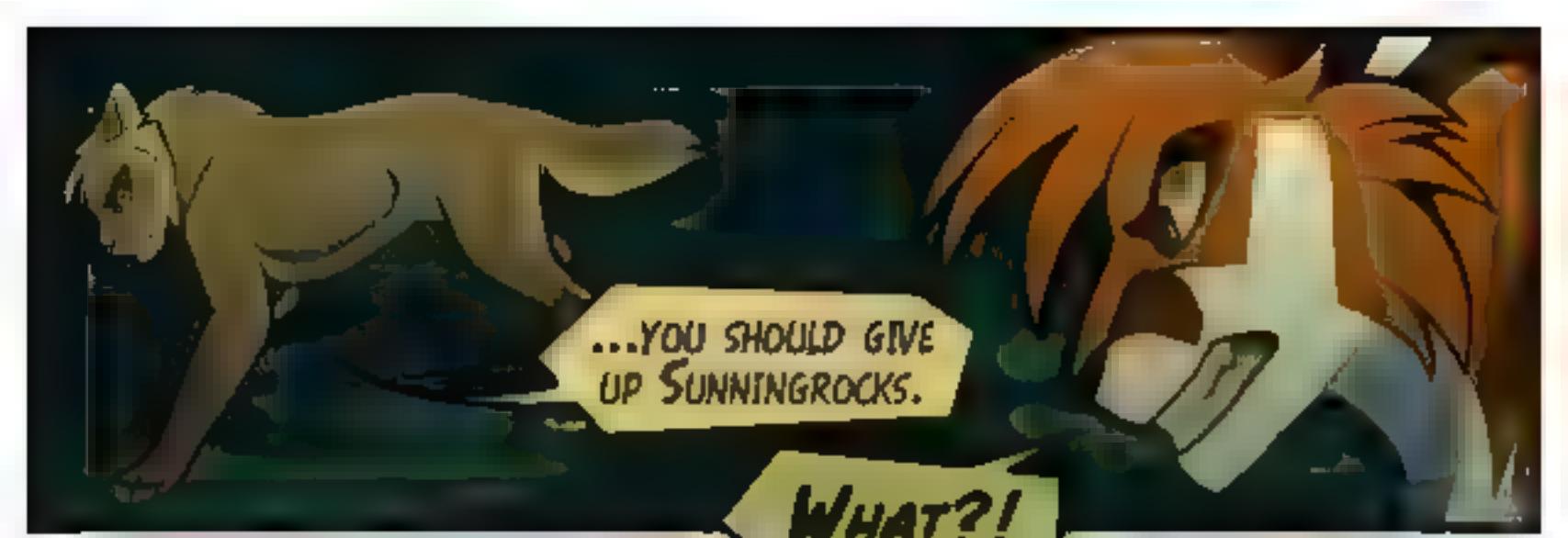
HEY.



I NEED TO
TALK TO YOU.



WHAT?



...YOU SHOULD GIVE
UP SUNNINGROCKS.

WHAT?!



CROOKEDSTAR
WANTS IT BACK.

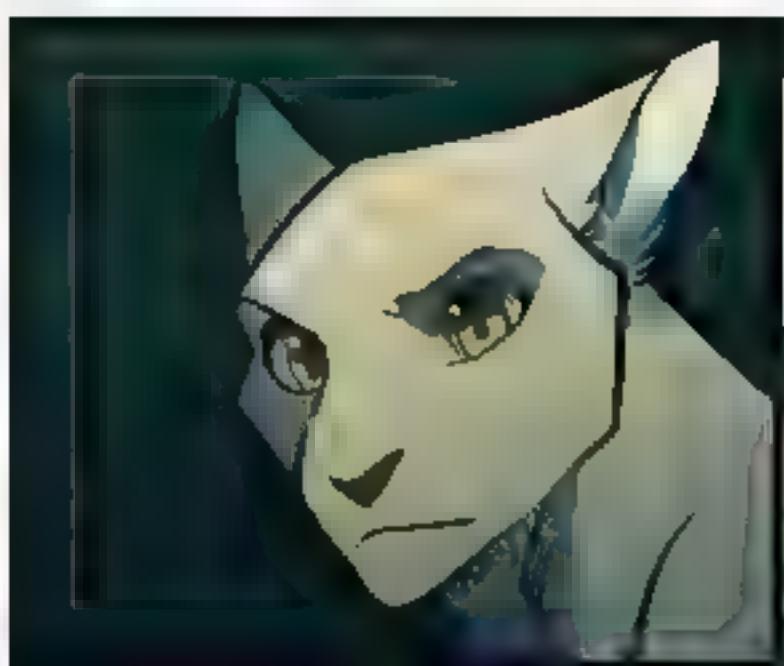
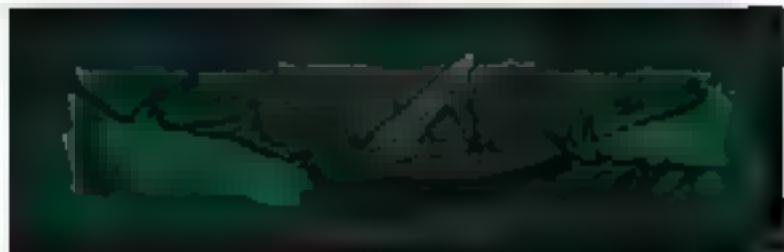
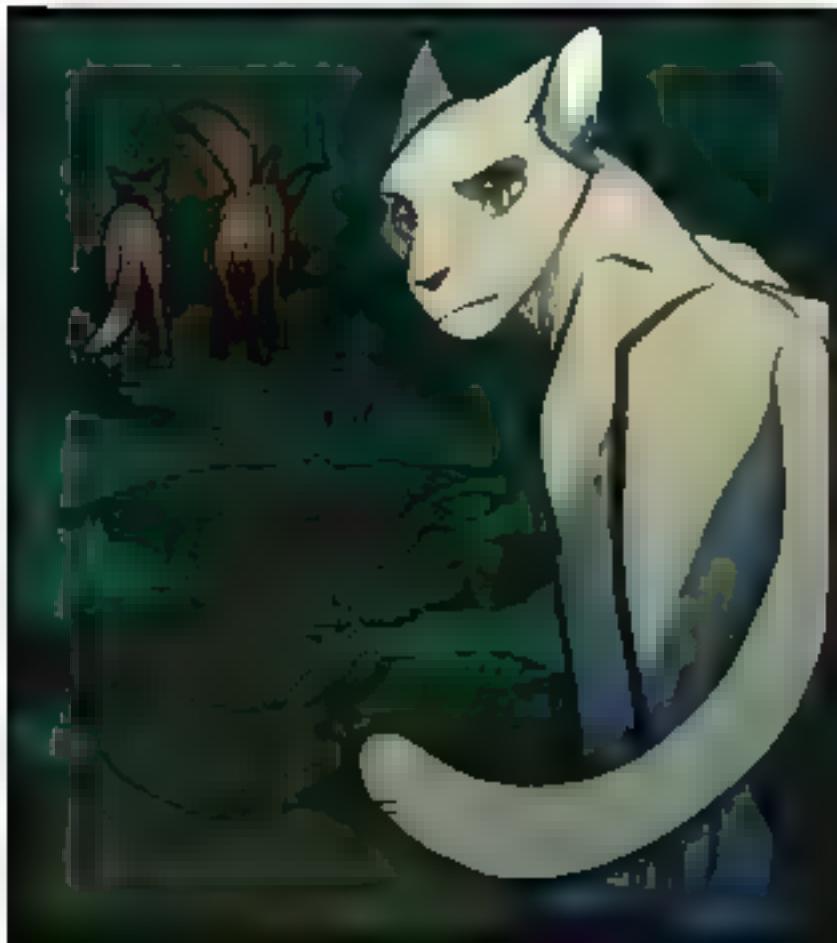
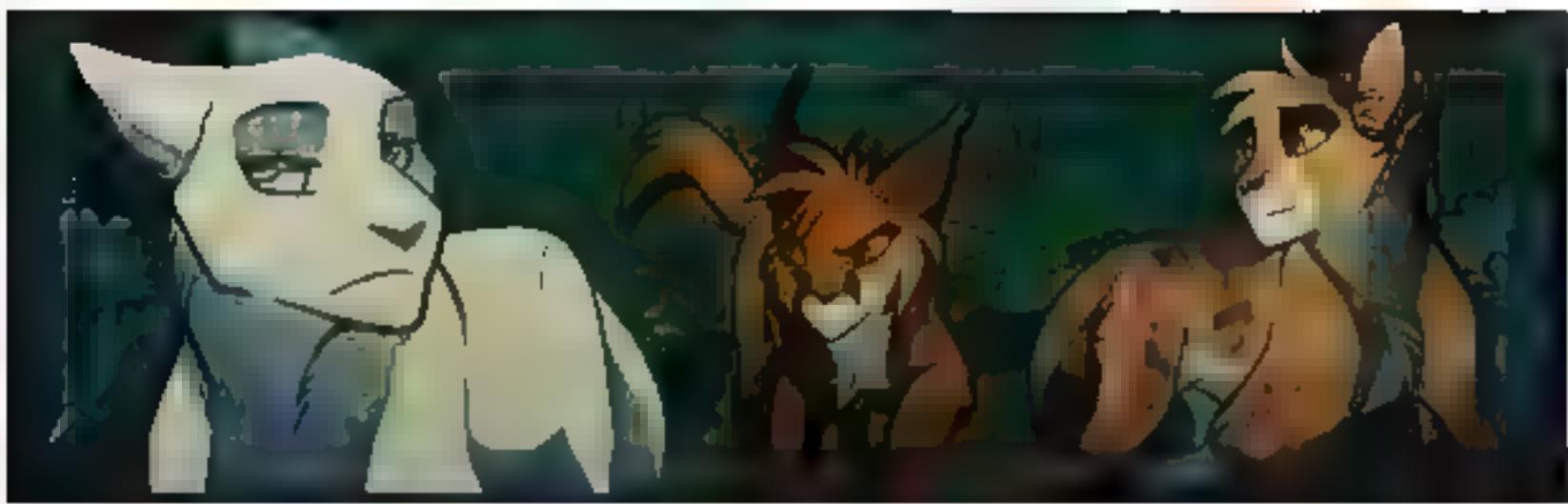
...IT'D SAVE A LOT
OF BLOOD IF YOU--

HOW DARE YOU!



REDTAIL, PLEASE--

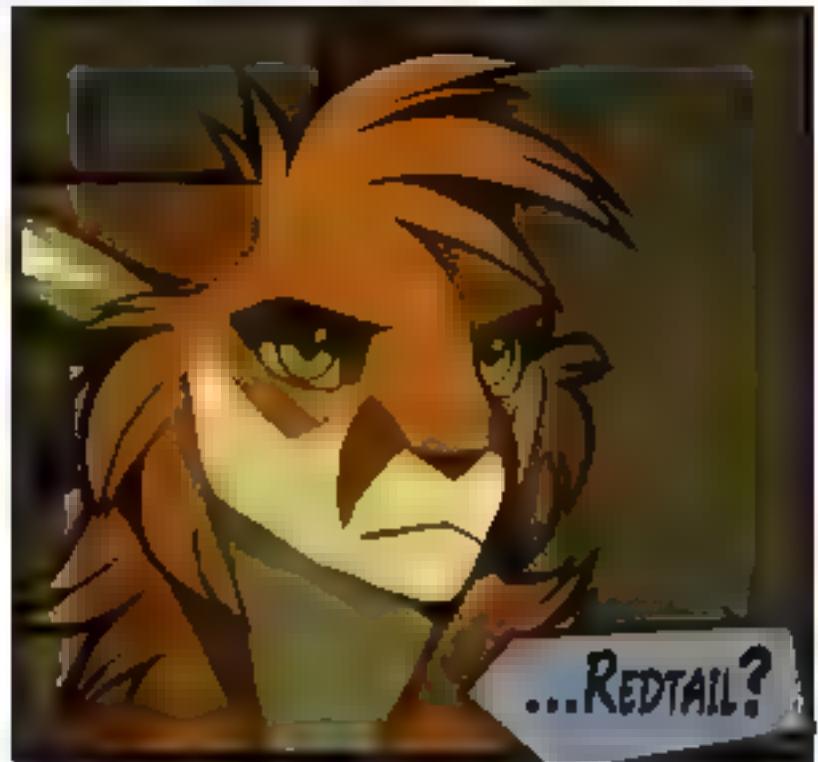
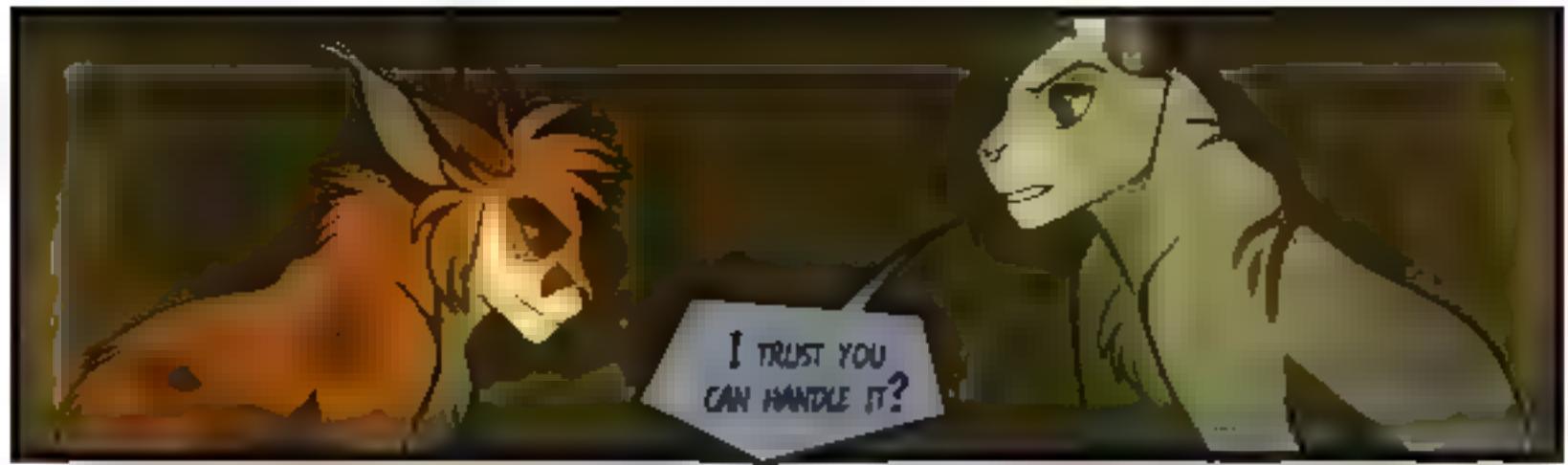




SO RIVERCLAN ARE
PLANNING AN ATTACK.

...WHAT
A PITY.







THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY--

STOP IT.



I HARDLY SEE
HOW THIS IS ANY OF
YOUR BUSINESS.

IF YOU CANNOT LEAD
THIS PARTY, I WILL FIND
SOMEONE WHO CAN.



TO THINK MY DEPUTY IS
AFRAID TO FIGHT.

PATHETIC!



OR SHALL I
GIVE THIS MISSION
TO TIGERCLAW?



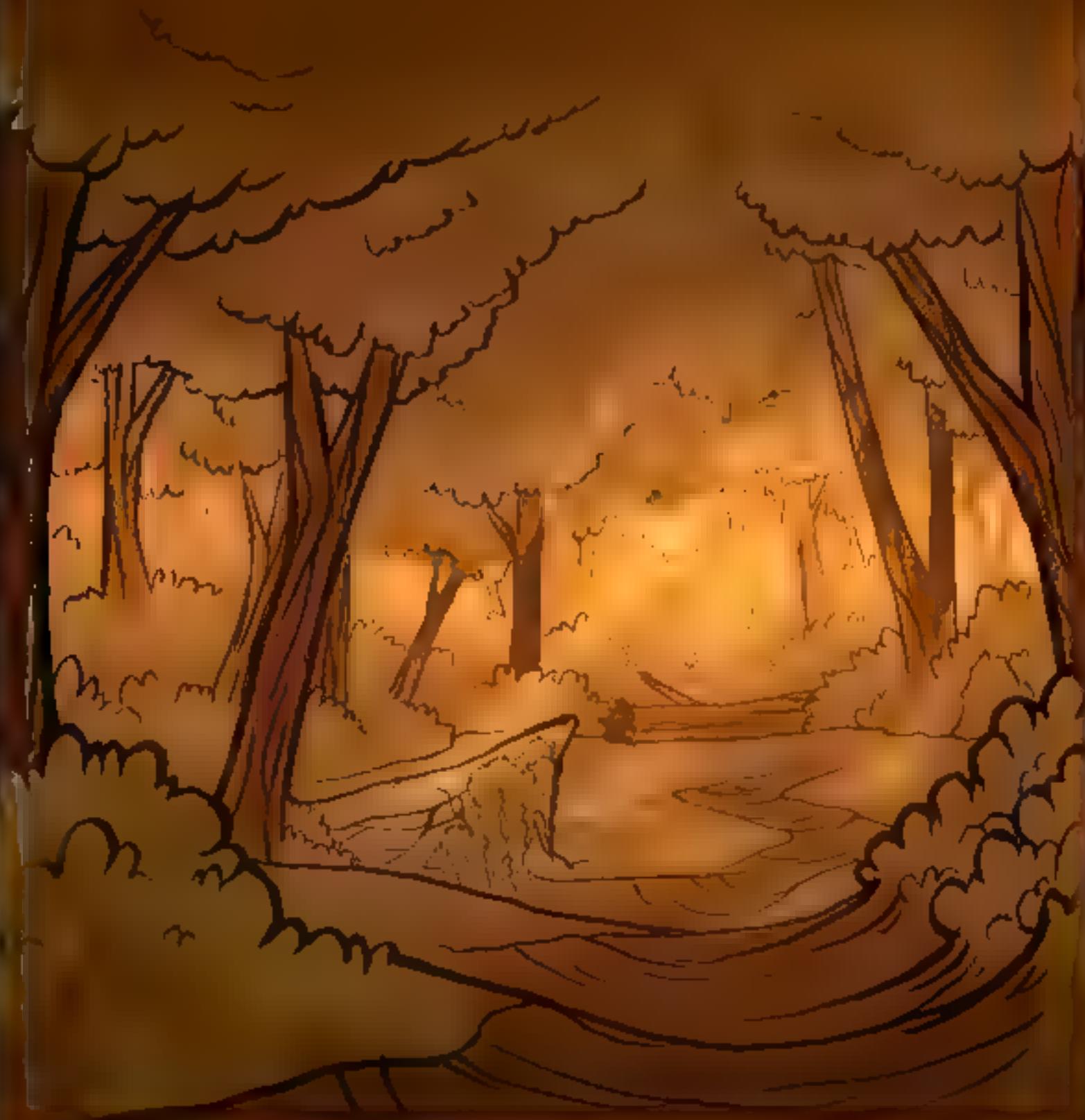
BLUESTAR, I...

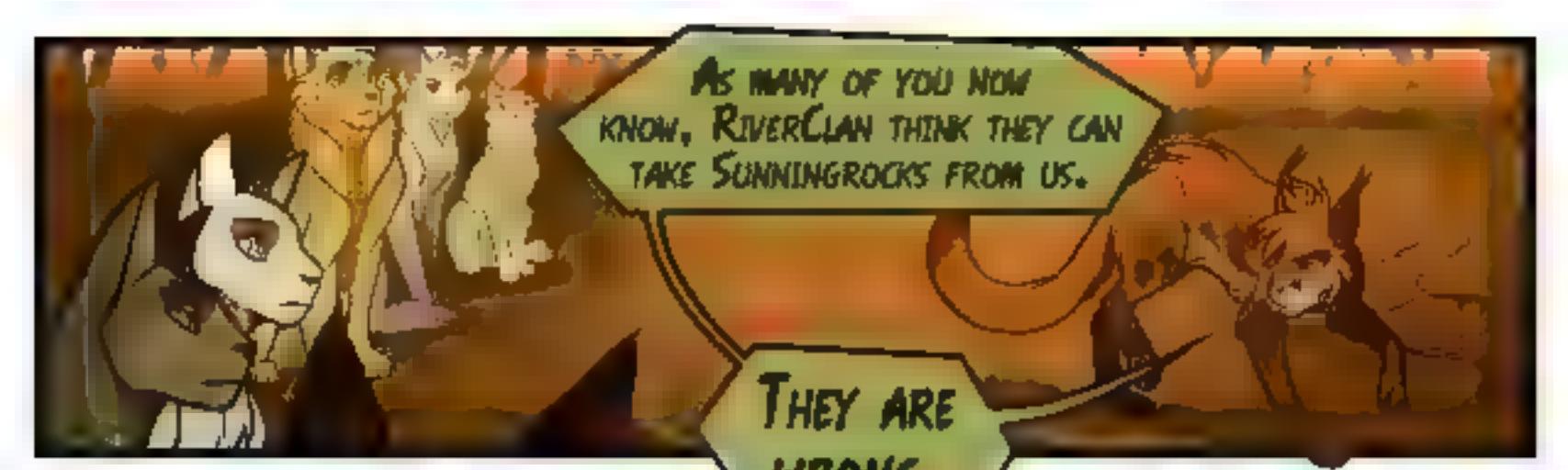


GO, REDTAIL.

TAKE TIGERCLAW WITH
YOU. AT LEAST I CAN TRUST
HIM TO GET THE JOB DONE.







AS MANY OF YOU NOW
KNOW, RIVERCLAN THINK THEY CAN
TAKE SUNNINGROCKS FROM US.

THEY ARE
WRONG.

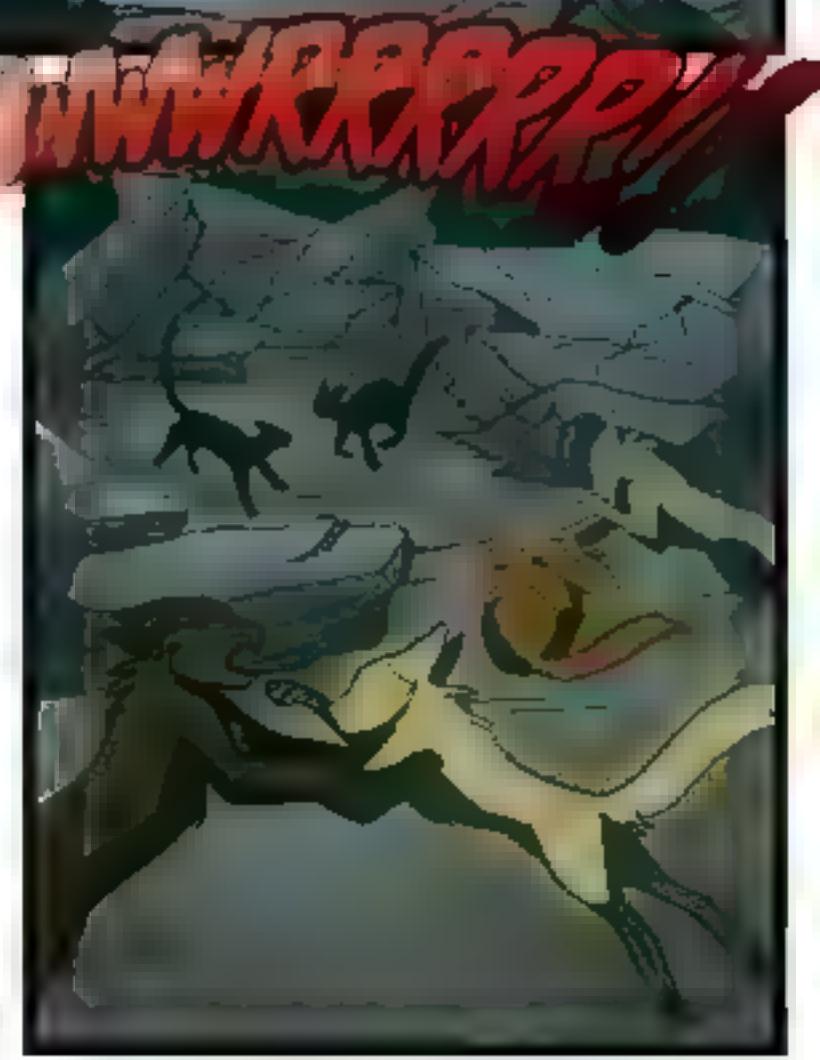
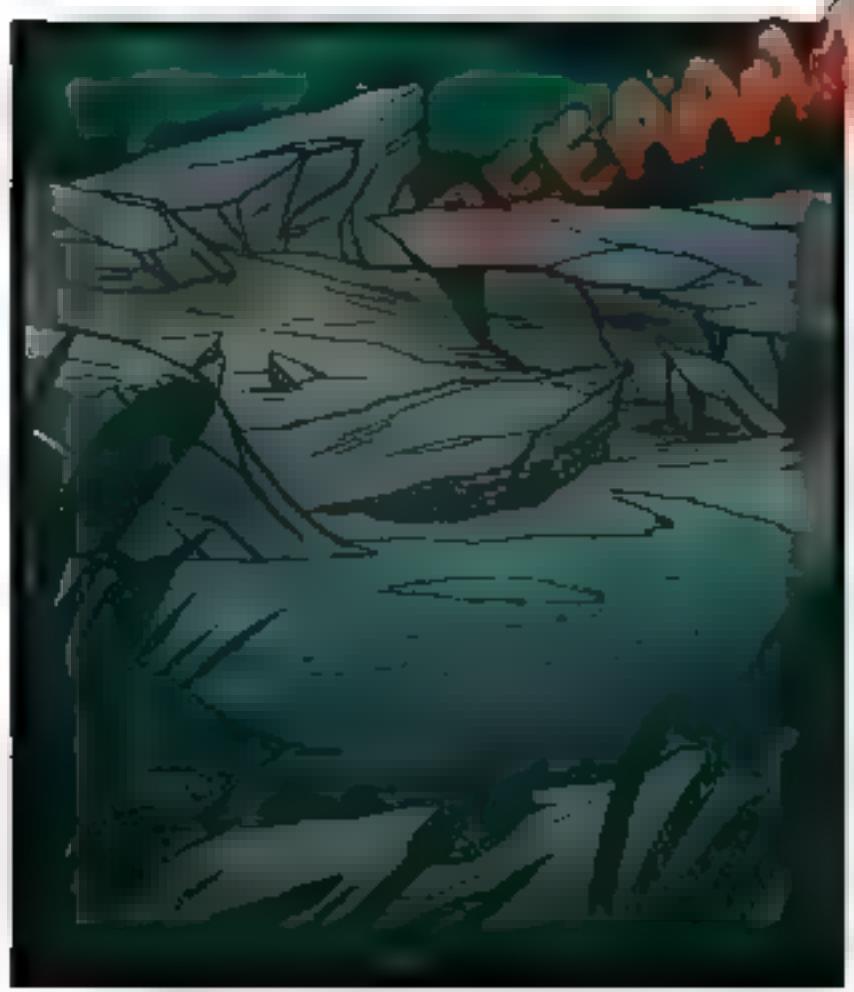
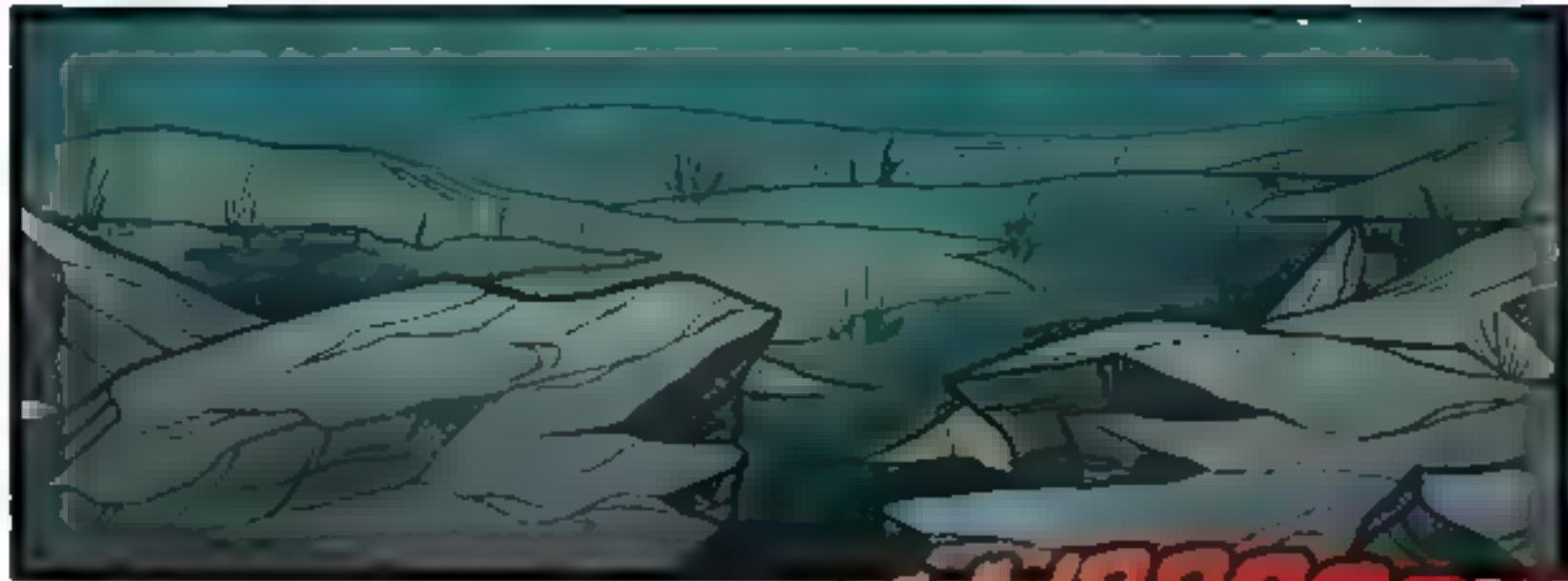
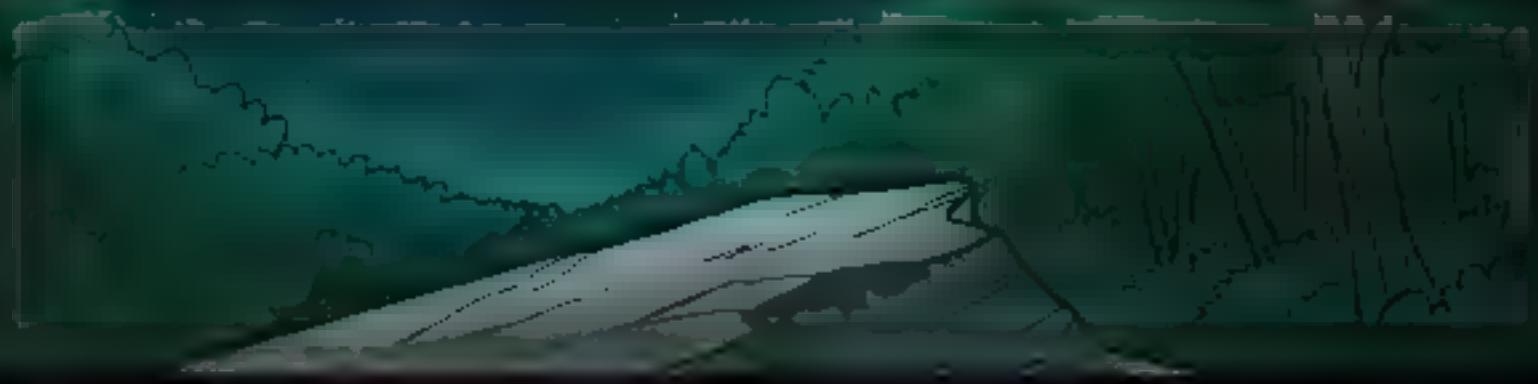


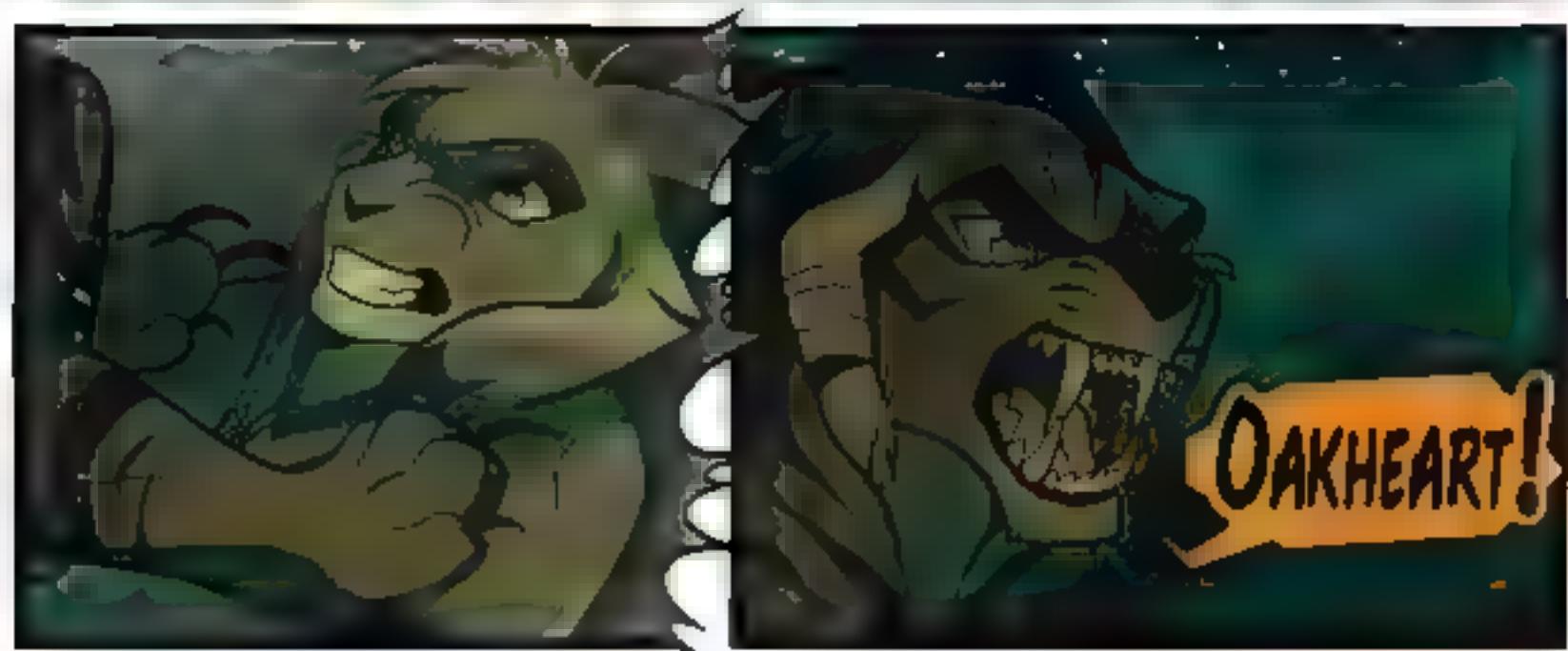
TIGERCLAW, GATHER
AS MANY WARRIORAS AS YOU
THINK WE NEED.

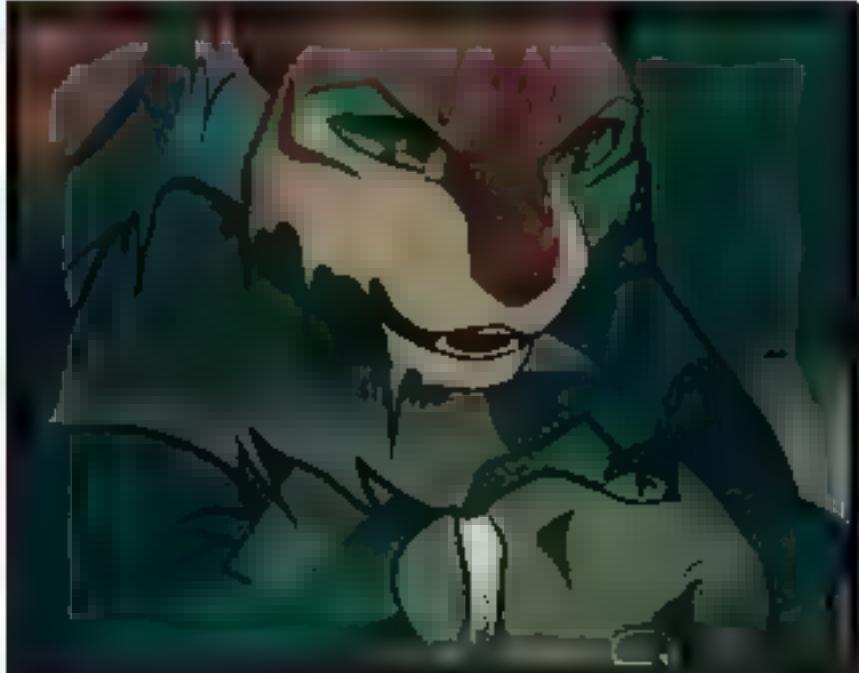


WHITESTORM, I TRUST
YOU TO GUARD THE CAMP.

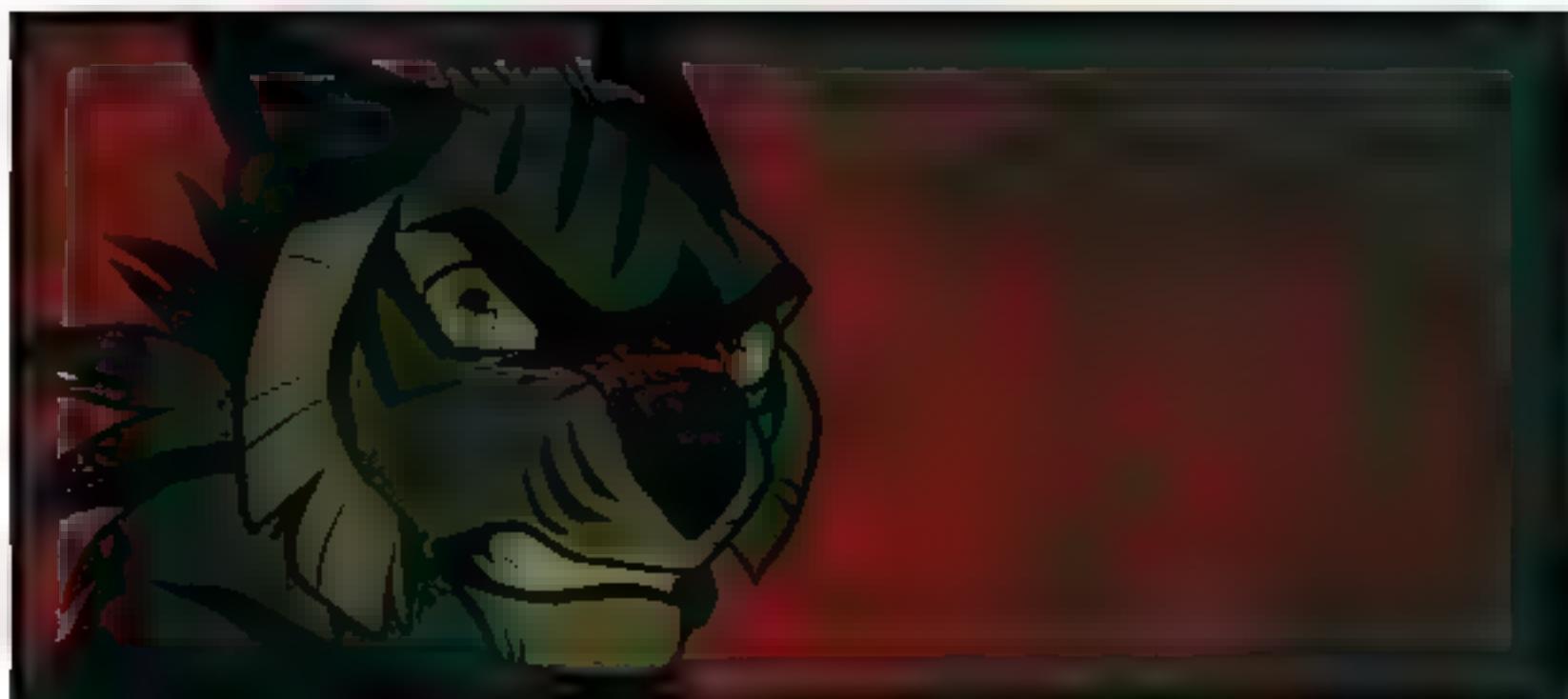
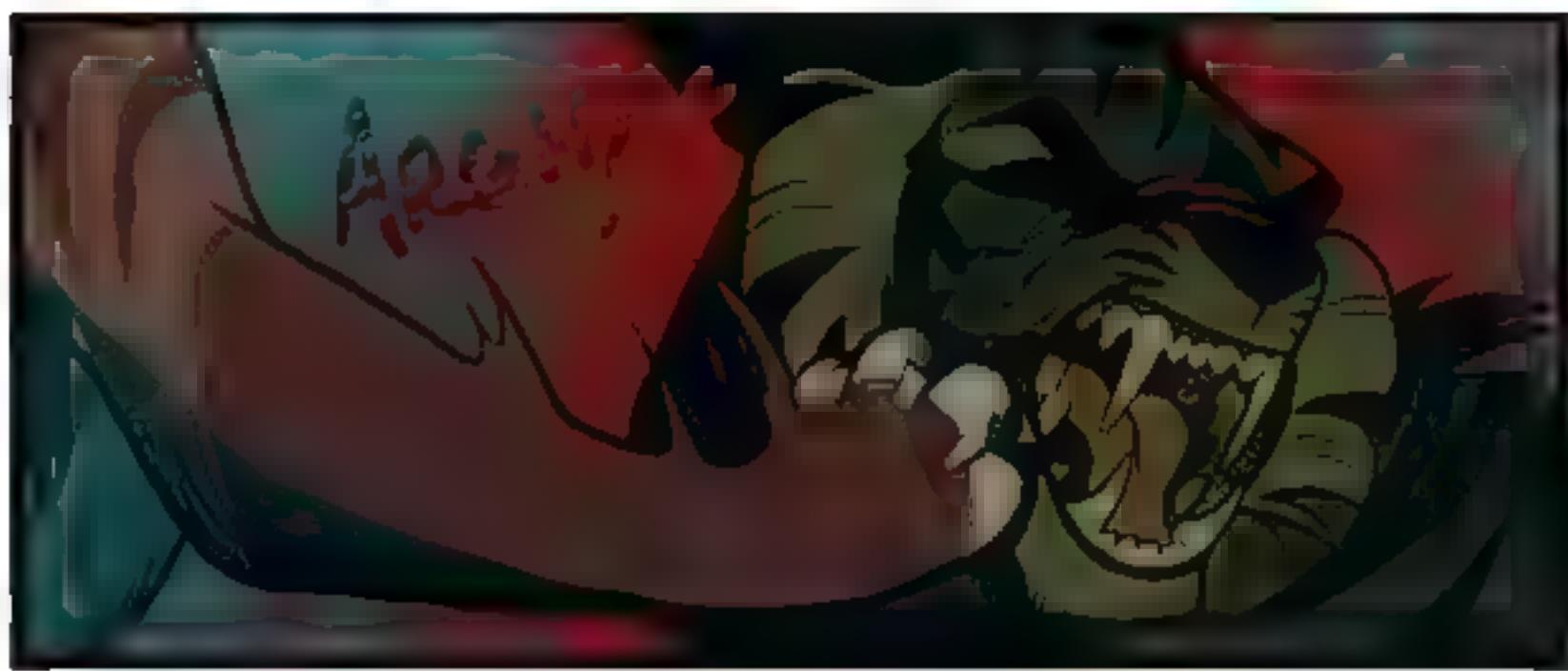


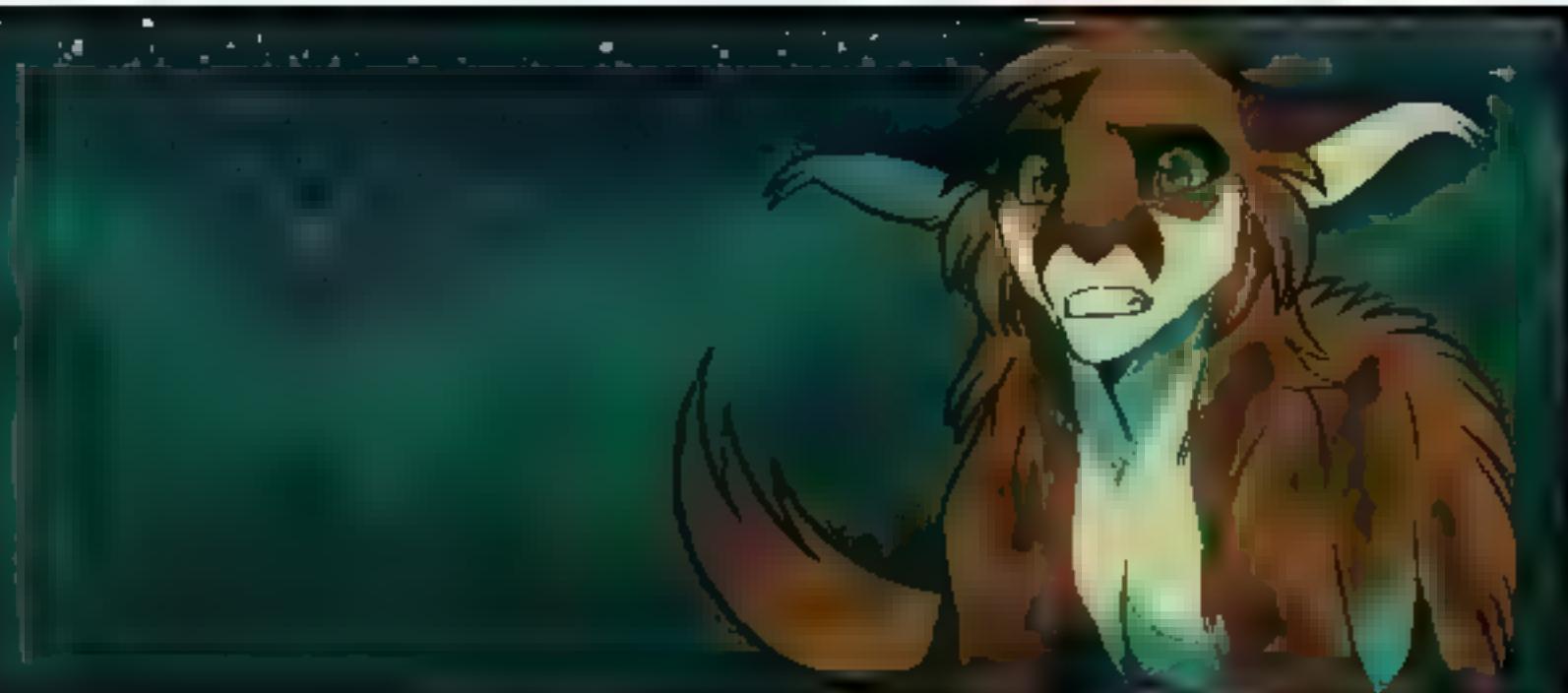
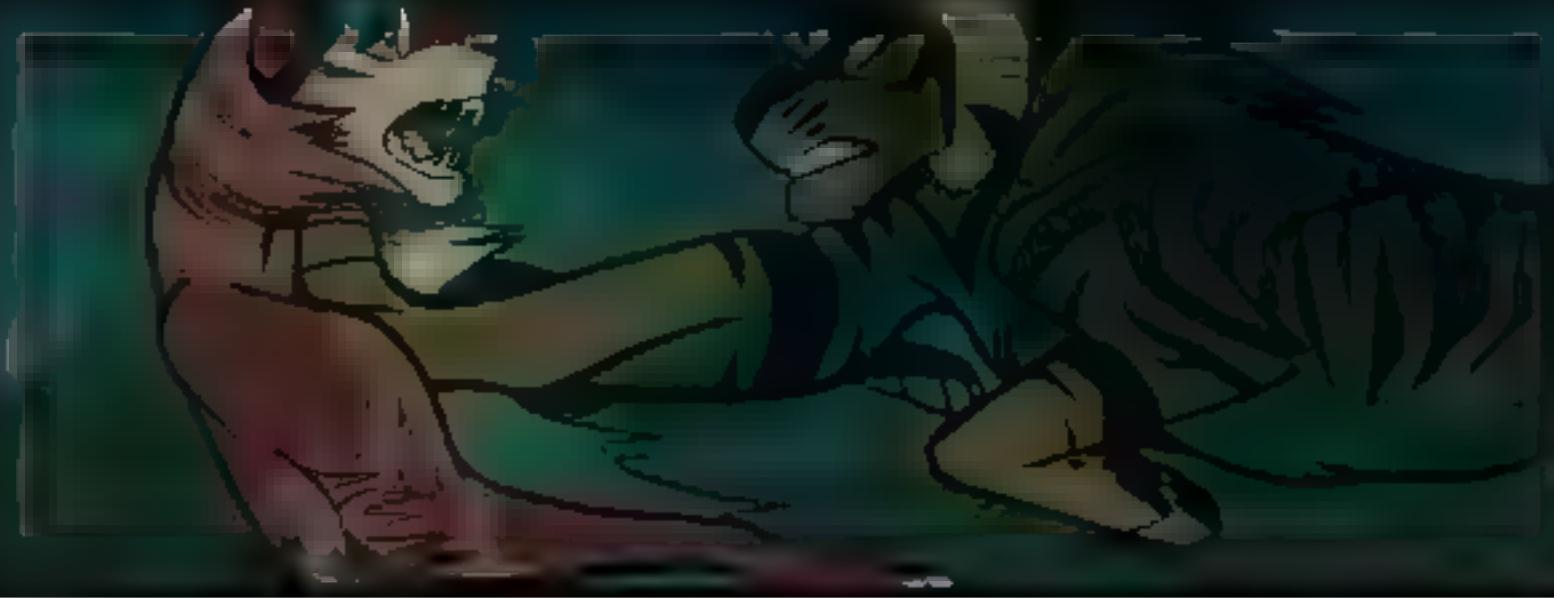












TIGERCLAW!



THIS IS USELESS!

THERE ARE TOO
MANY RIVERCLAN
WARRIORS!

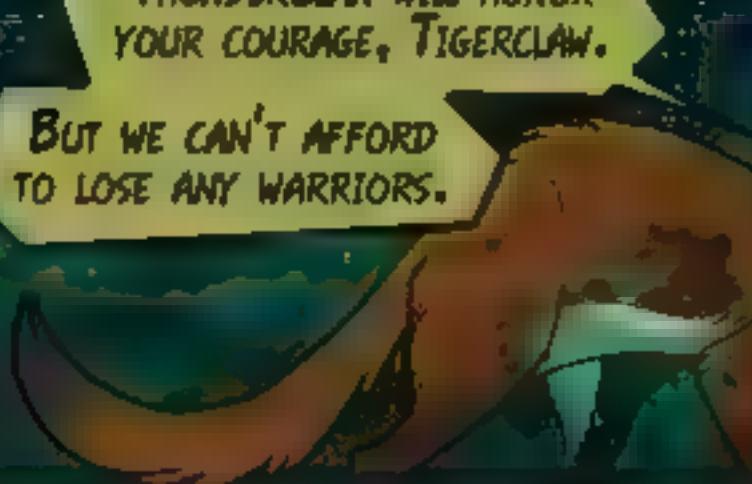


No, REDTAIL.

THUNDERCLAN WILL
NEVER BE BEATEN!

**THIS IS OUR
TERRITORY!**





THUNDERCLAN WILL HONOR
YOUR COURAGE, TIGERCLAW.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE ANY WARRIOR.



BLUESTAR WOULD NEVER
EXPECT US TO FIGHT AGAINST
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

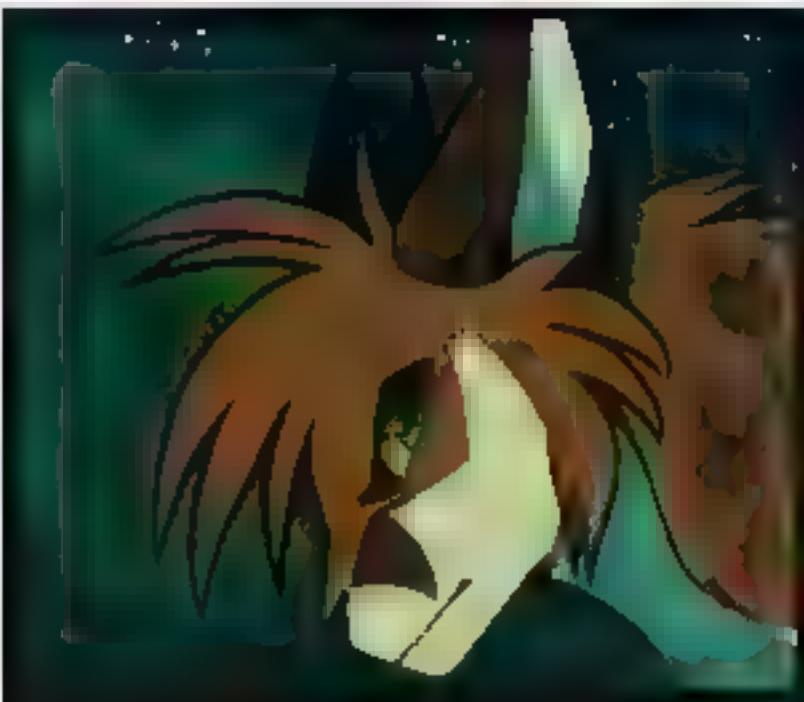
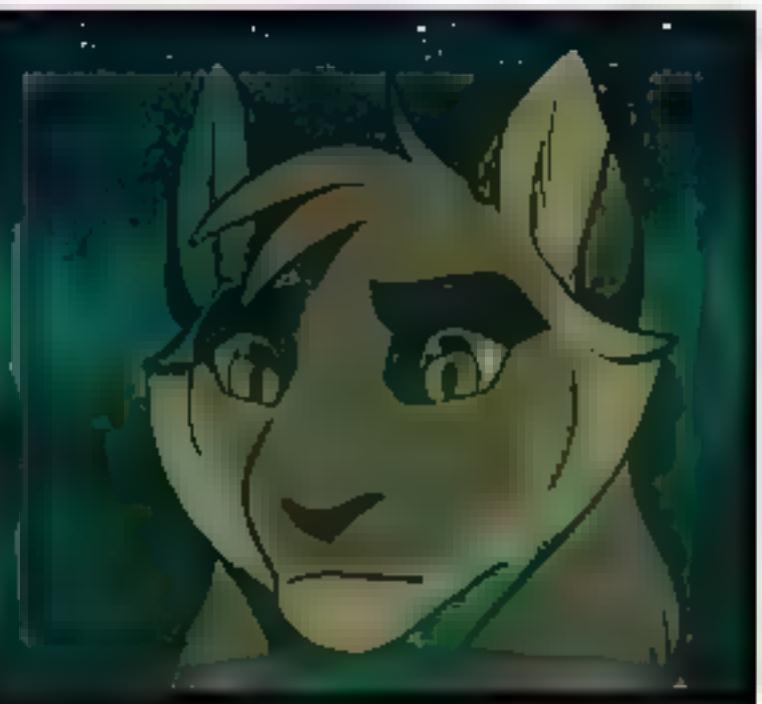
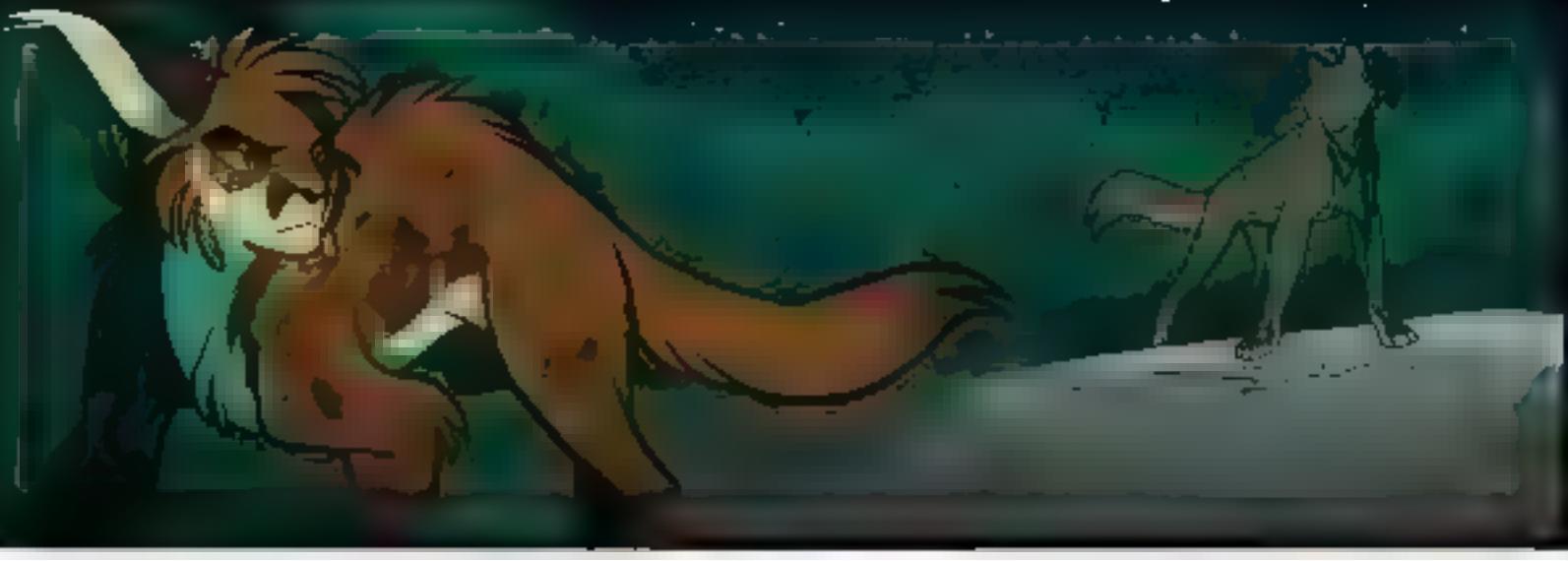


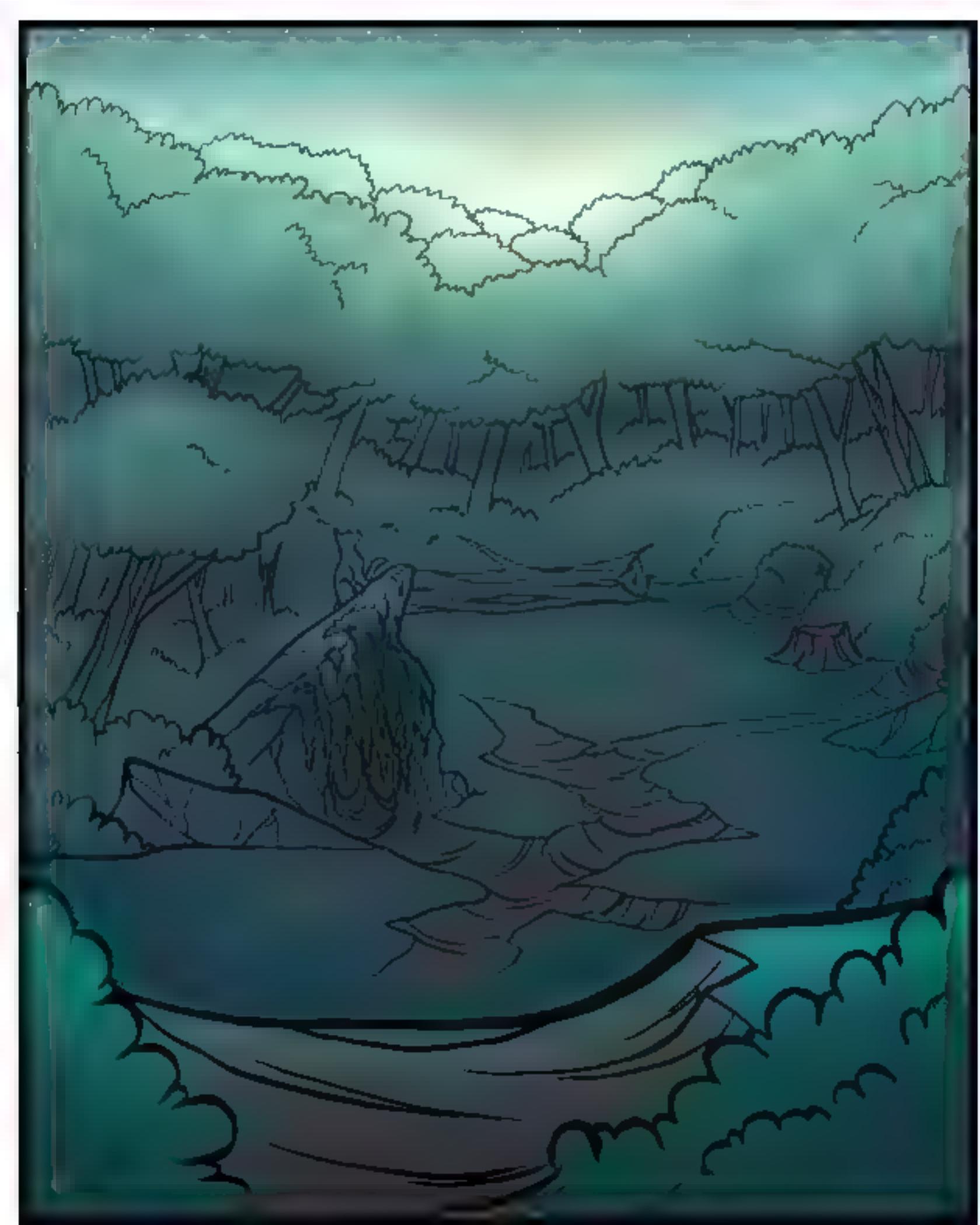
WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER
CHANCE TO AVENGE THIS DEFEAT.

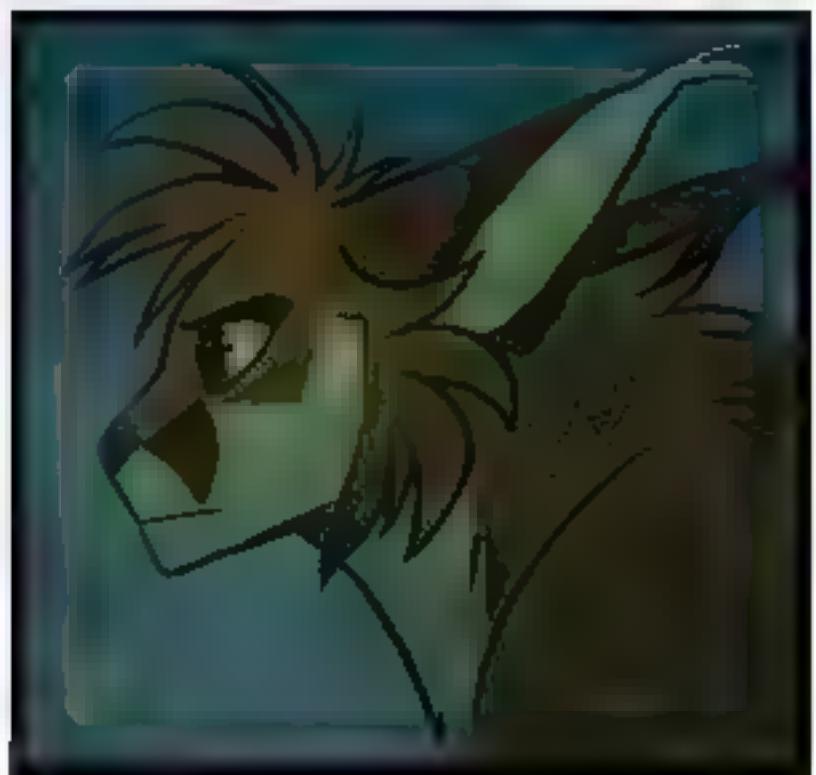


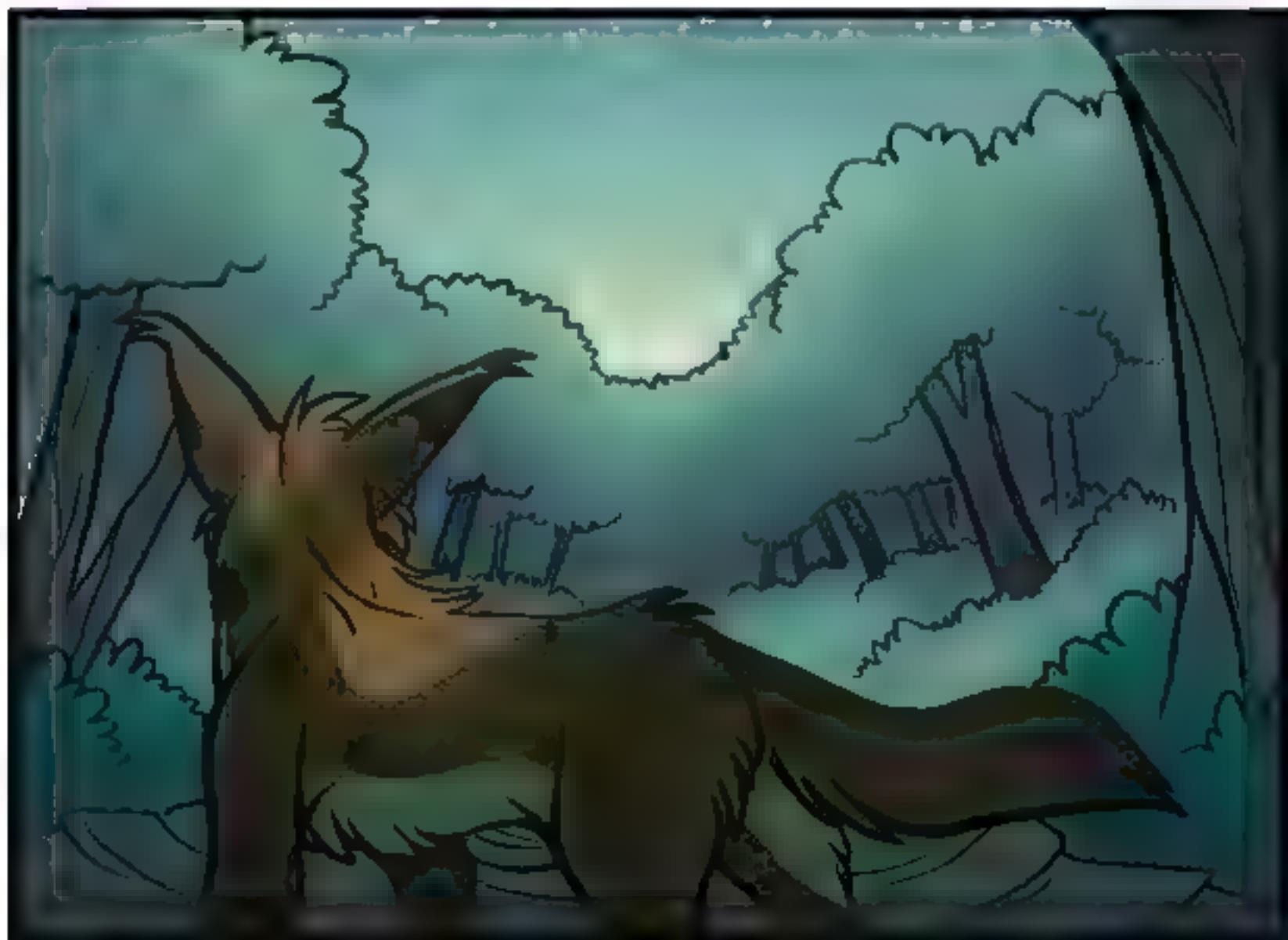
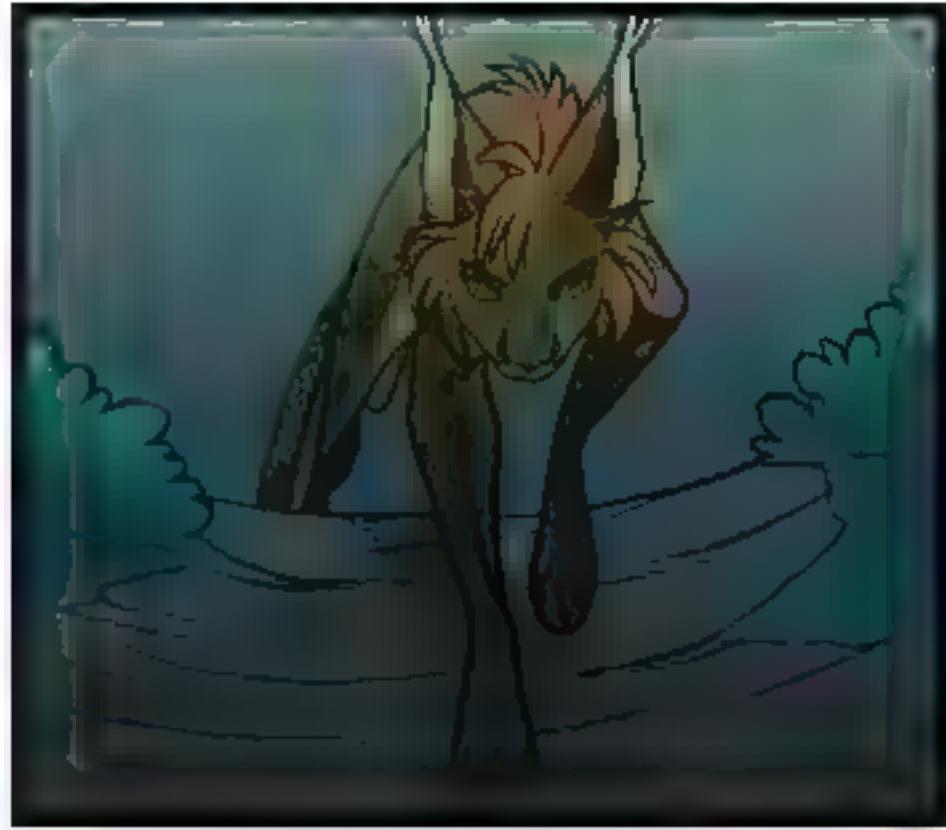
RETREAT,
THUNDERCLAN!

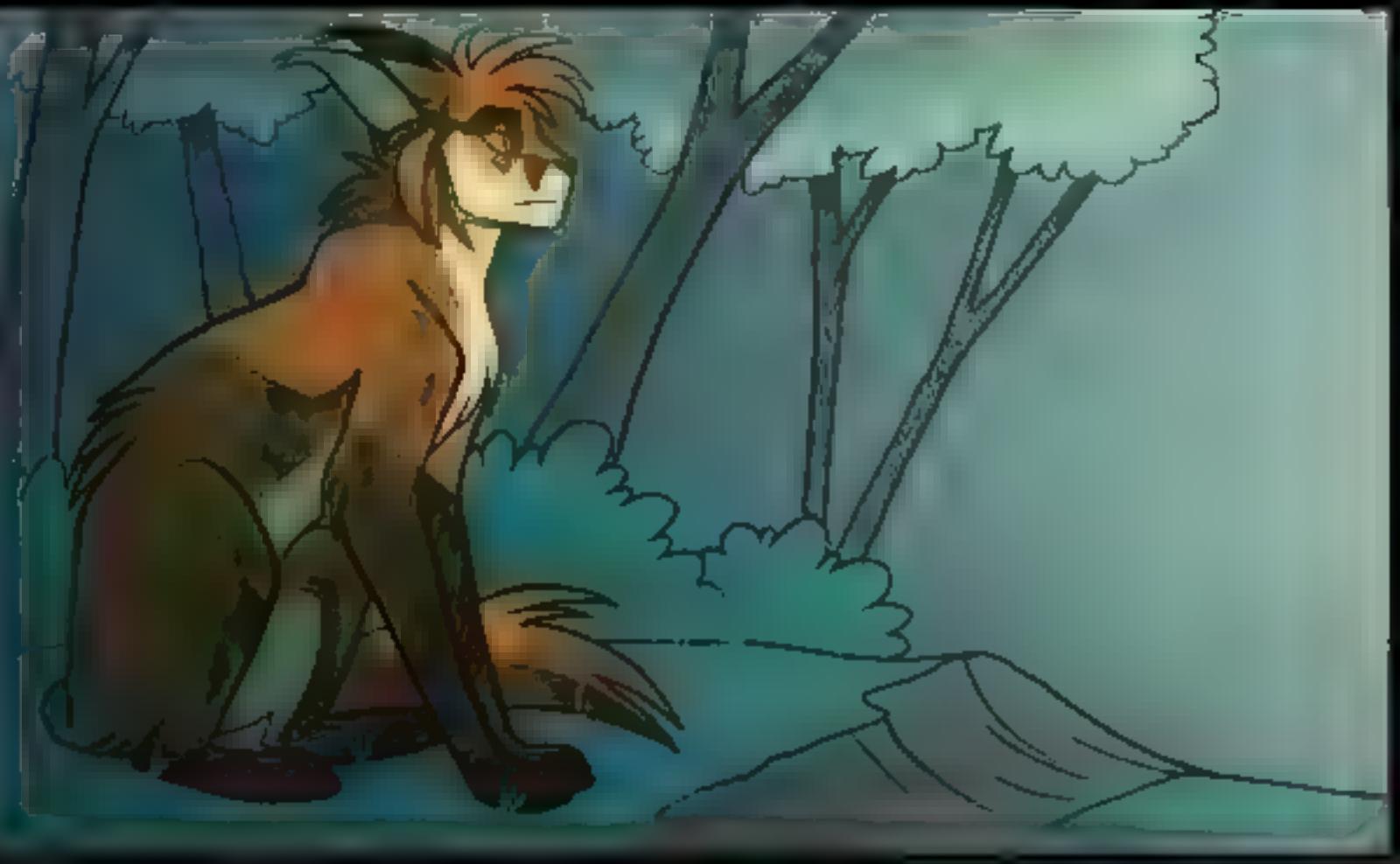
RETREAT!













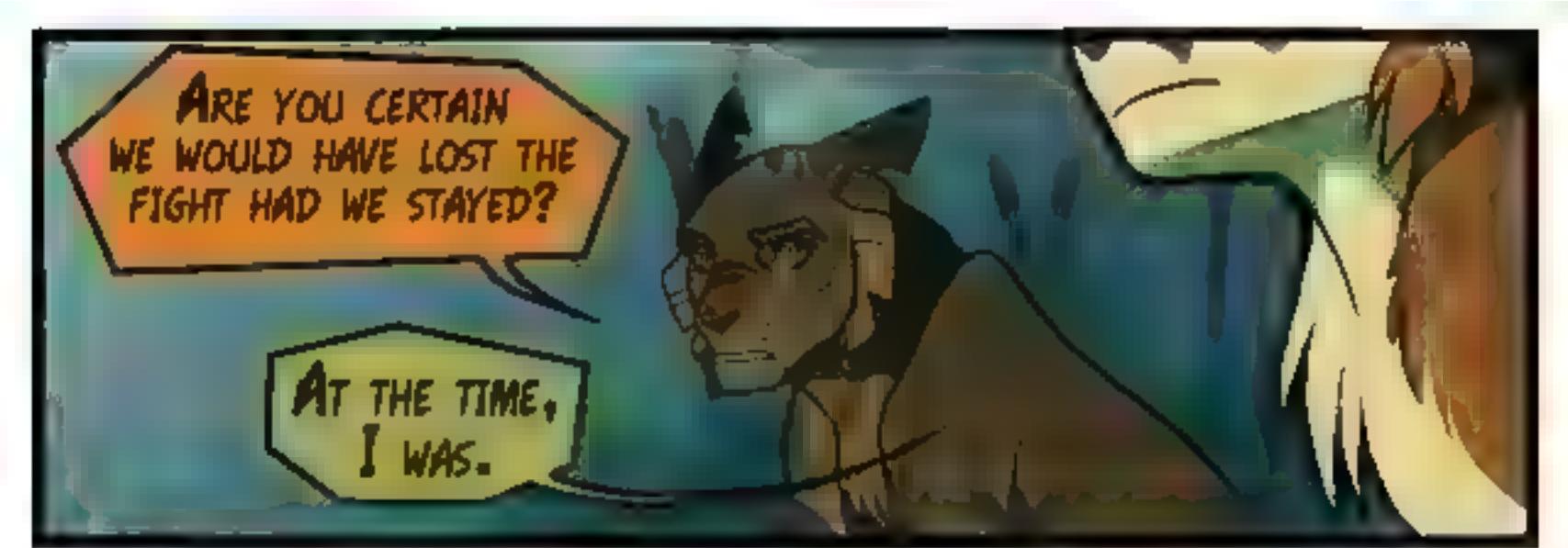
HEY.



HOW DID BLUESTAR
TAKE THE NEWS?



NOT WELL.

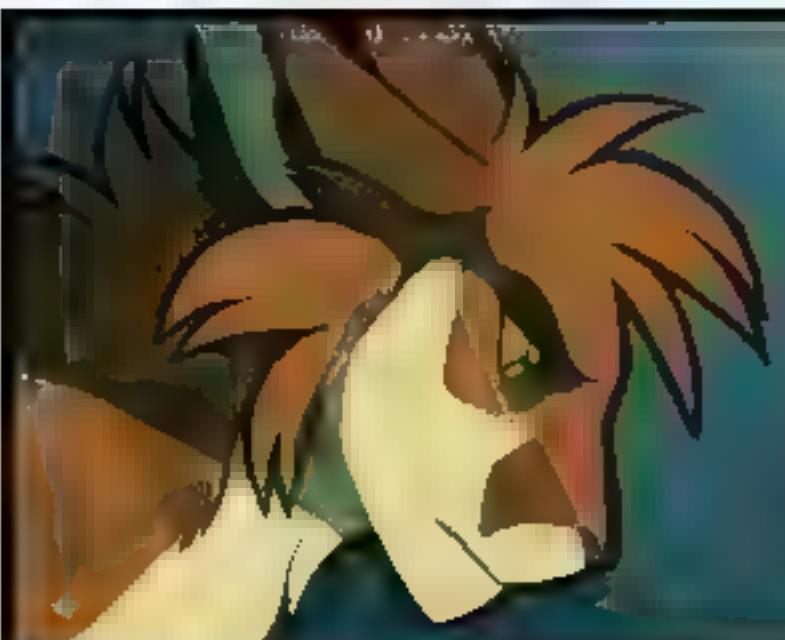


ARE YOU CERTAIN
WE WOULD HAVE LOST THE
FIGHT HAD WE STAYED?

AT THE TIME,
I WAS.



...BUT NOT NOW?

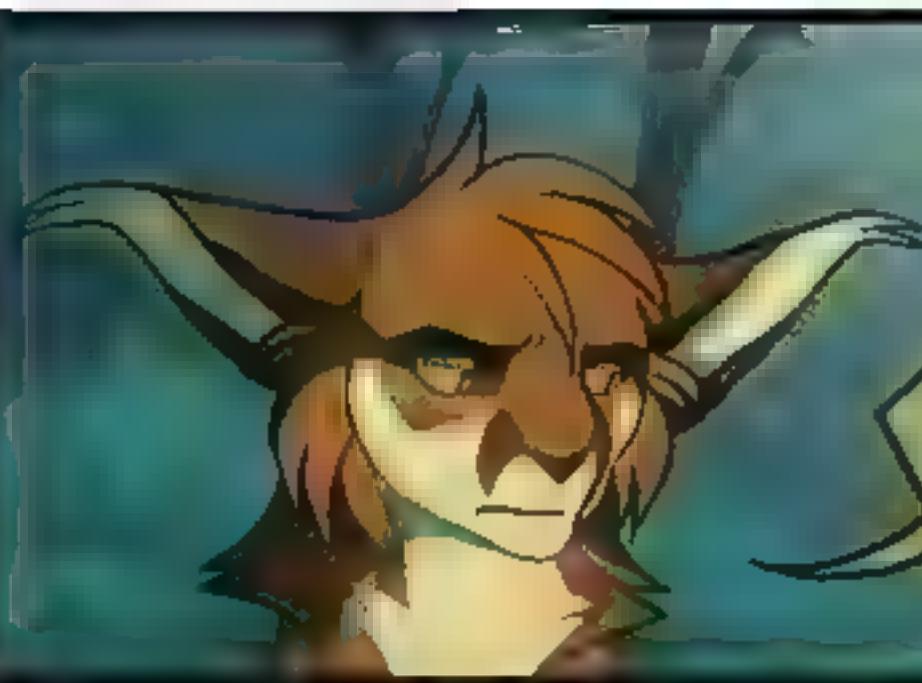






YOU NEED TO TRUST
US TO HANDLE IT.

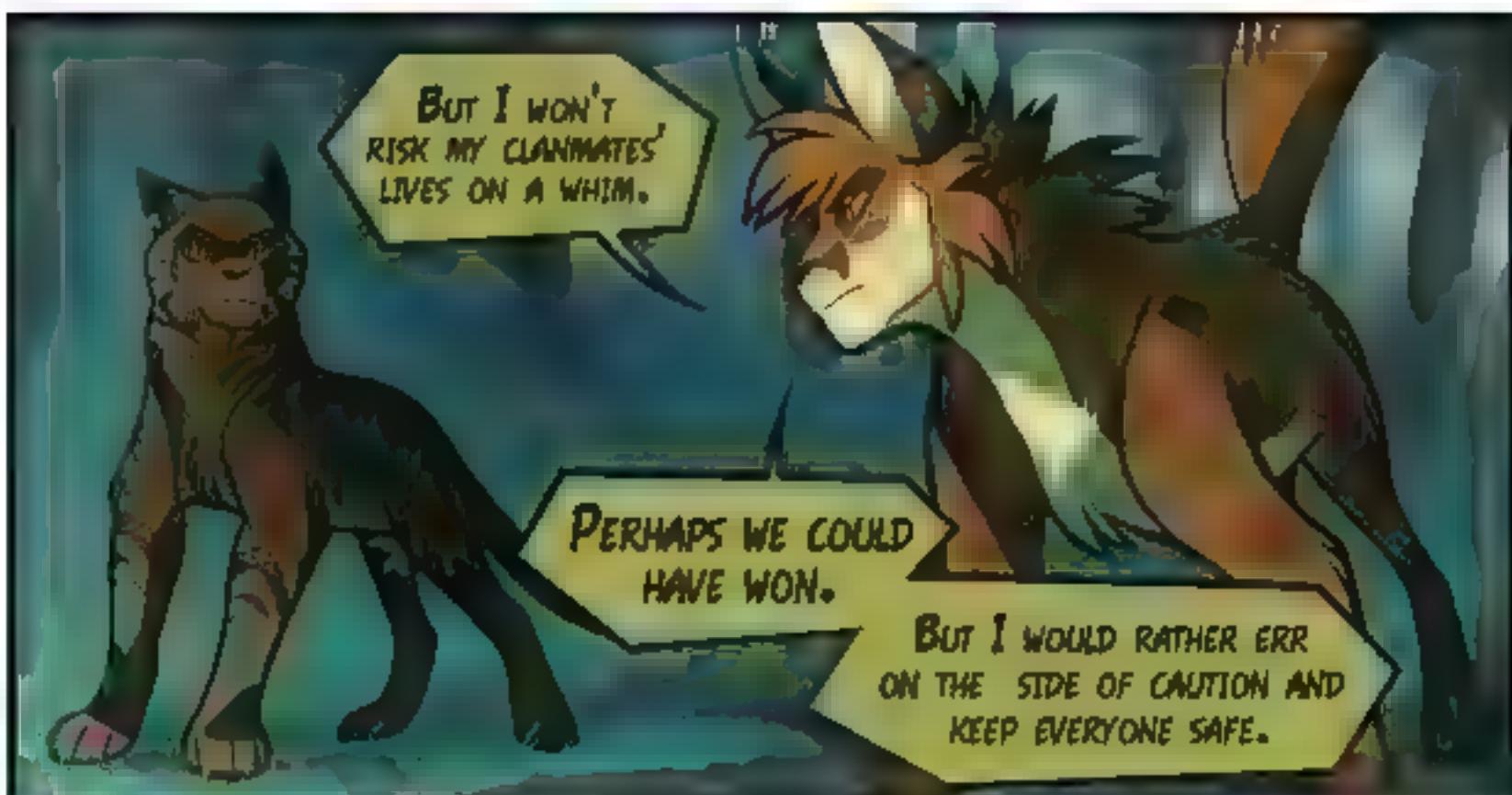
IT'S NOT YOU I DON'T TRUST.



I SUPPOSE I JUST
THOUGHT RIVERCLAN WAS
ABOVE KILLING DURING
A BORDER FIGHT.

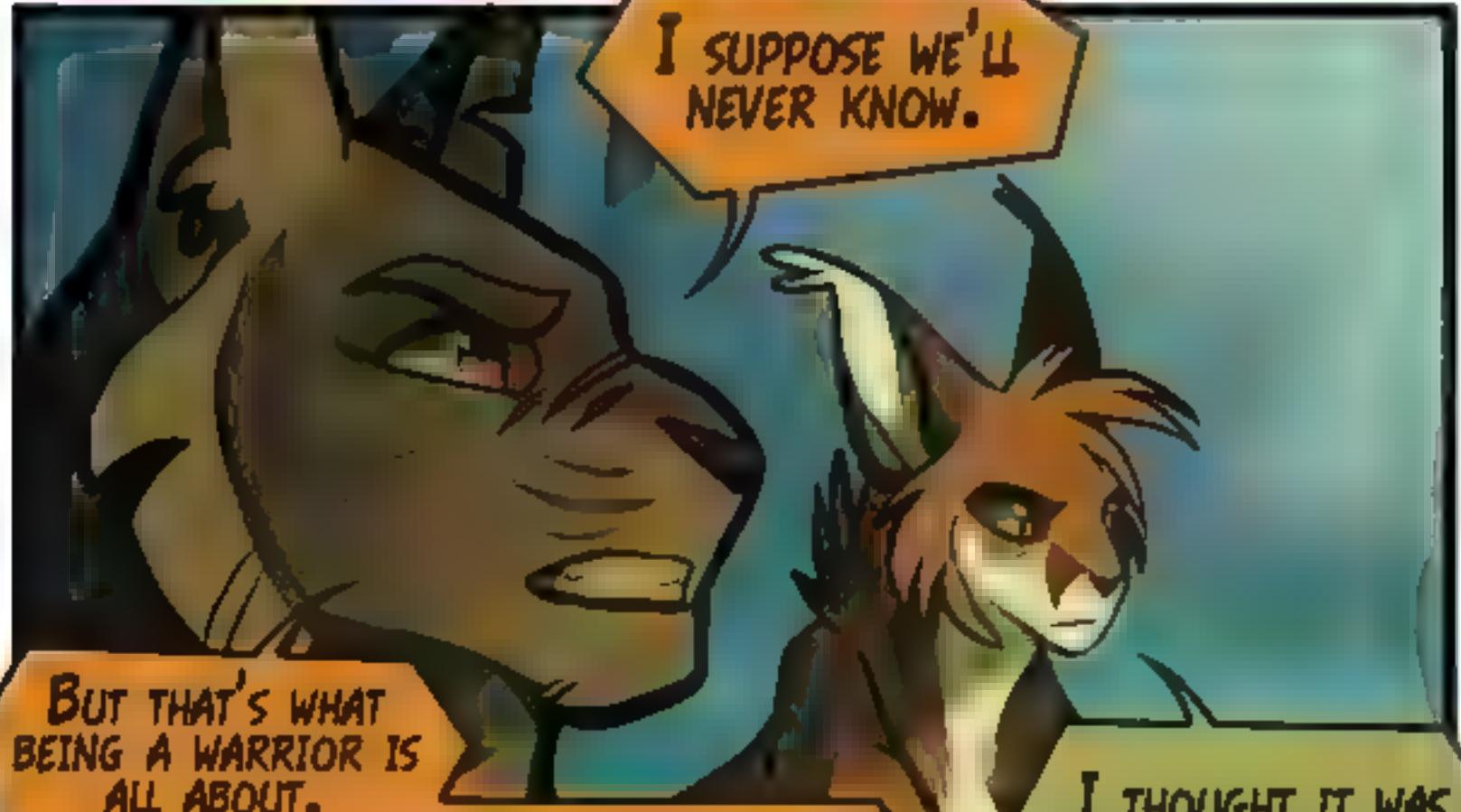


WHY?





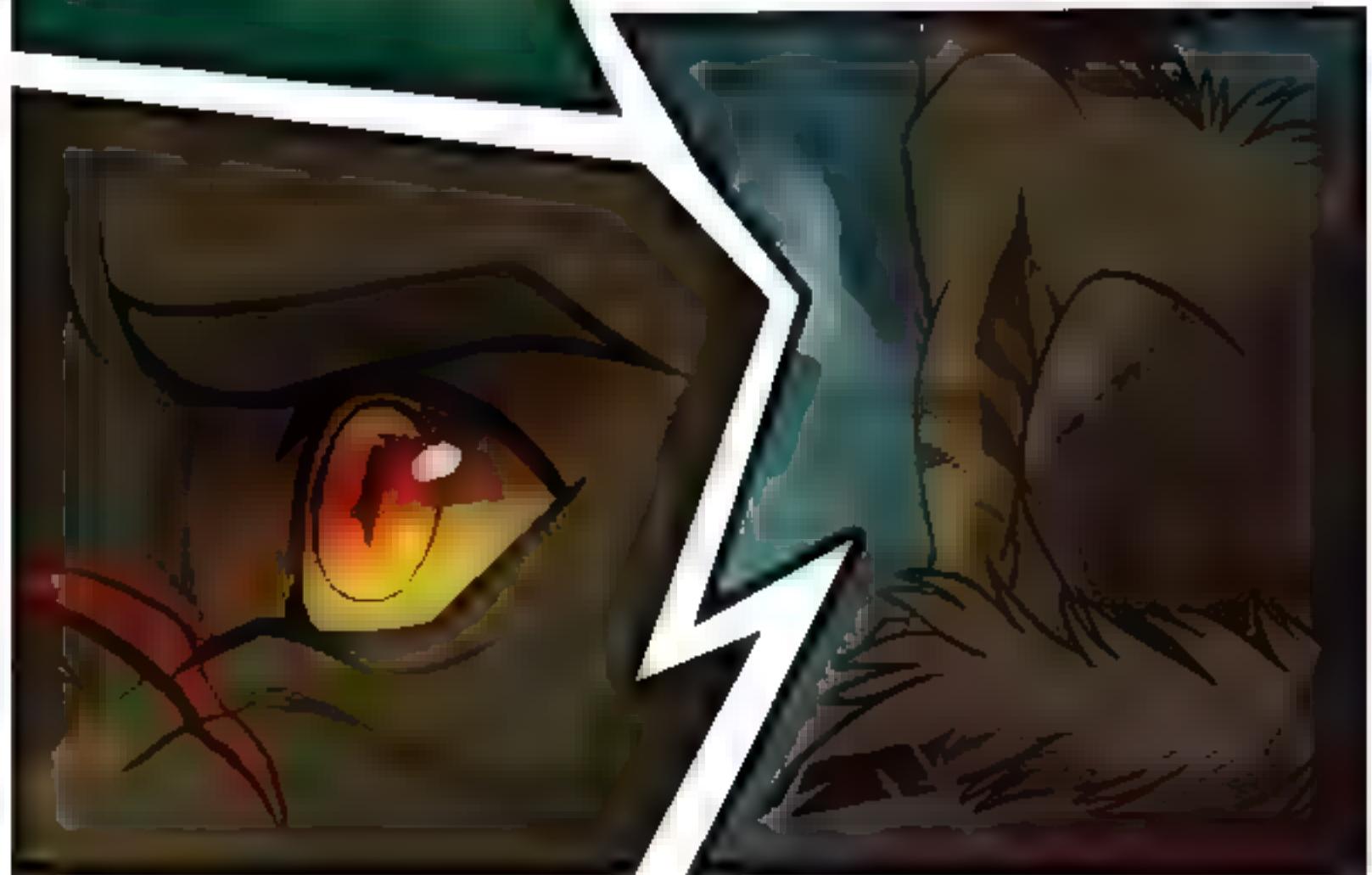
I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

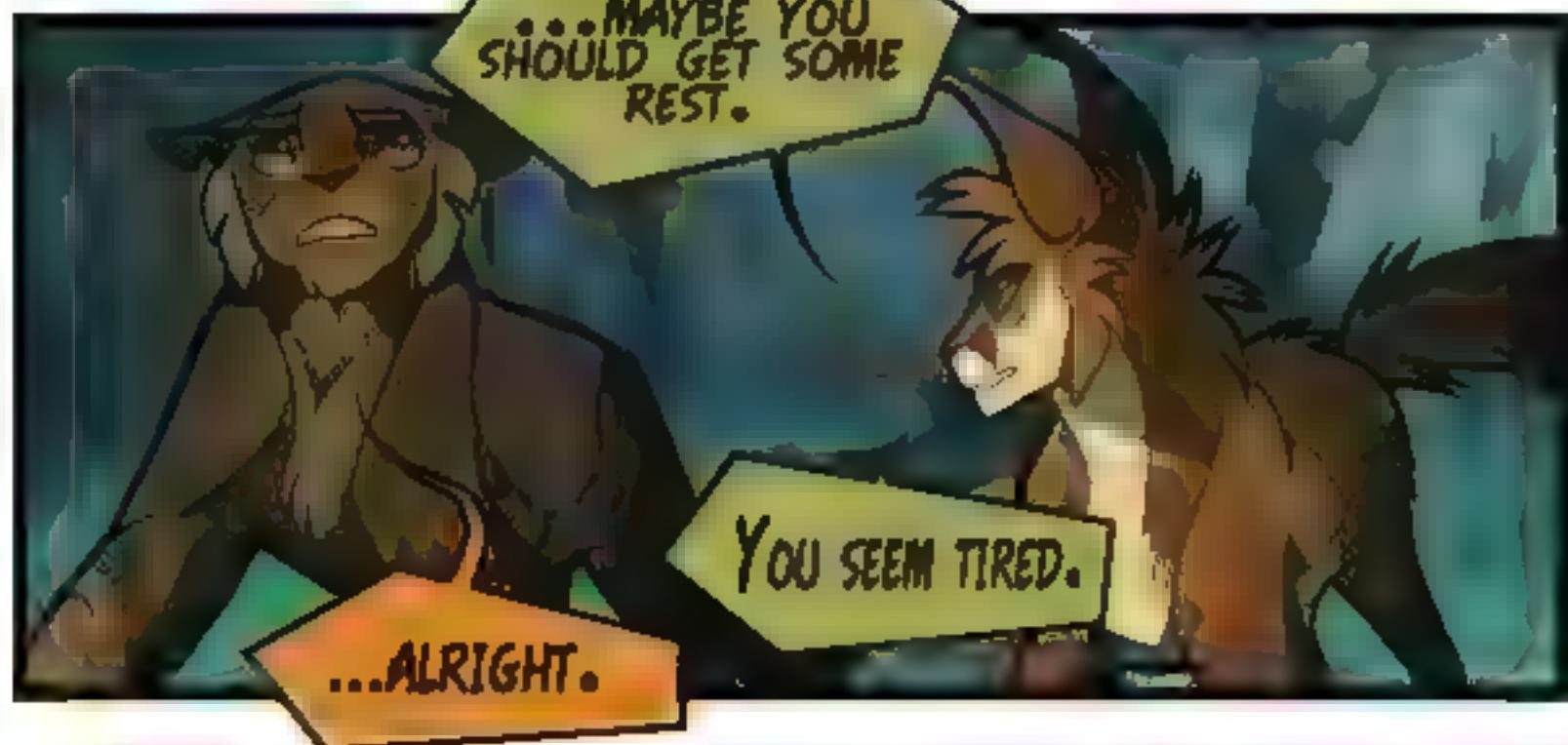
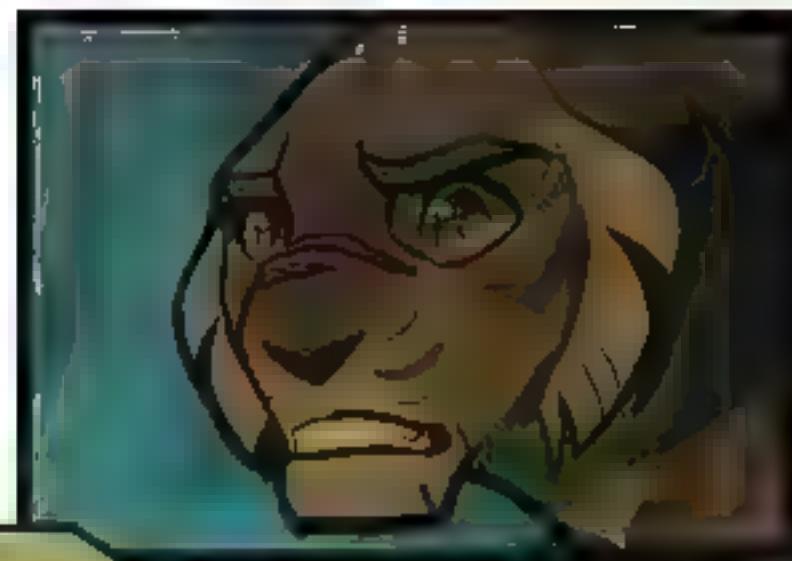
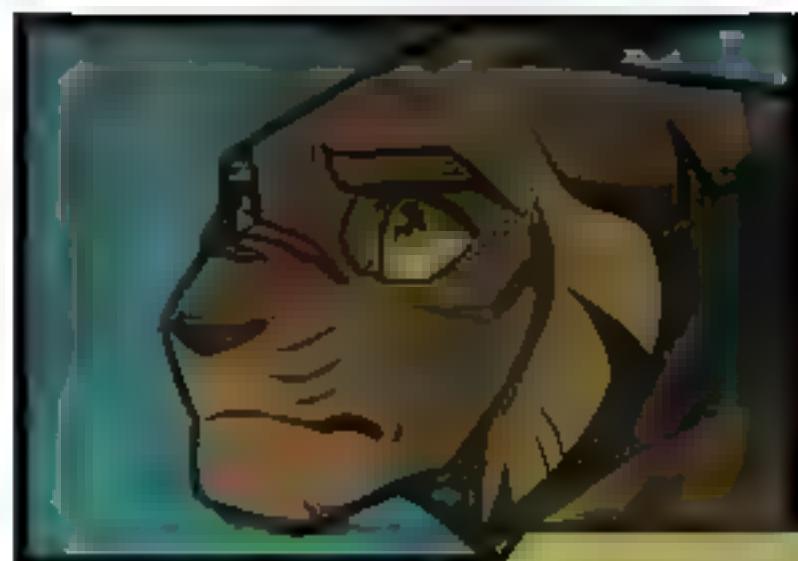


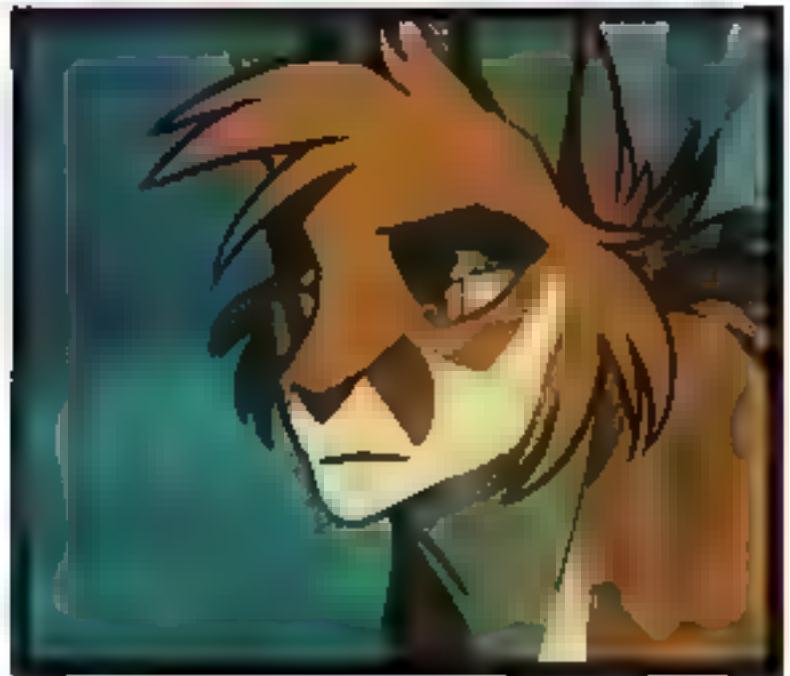
BUT THAT'S WHAT BEING A WARRIOR IS ALL ABOUT.

ALWAYS BEING READY TO FIGHT, EVEN AT THE COST OF YOUR OWN LIFE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT PROTECTING OTHERS.













WE HAD TO RETREAT.

W-WAS ANYONE HURT?

NOT BADLY.

TIGERCLAW WILL
HAVE A SCAR.



I...

WE SAW HIM.

IS HE MAD...?

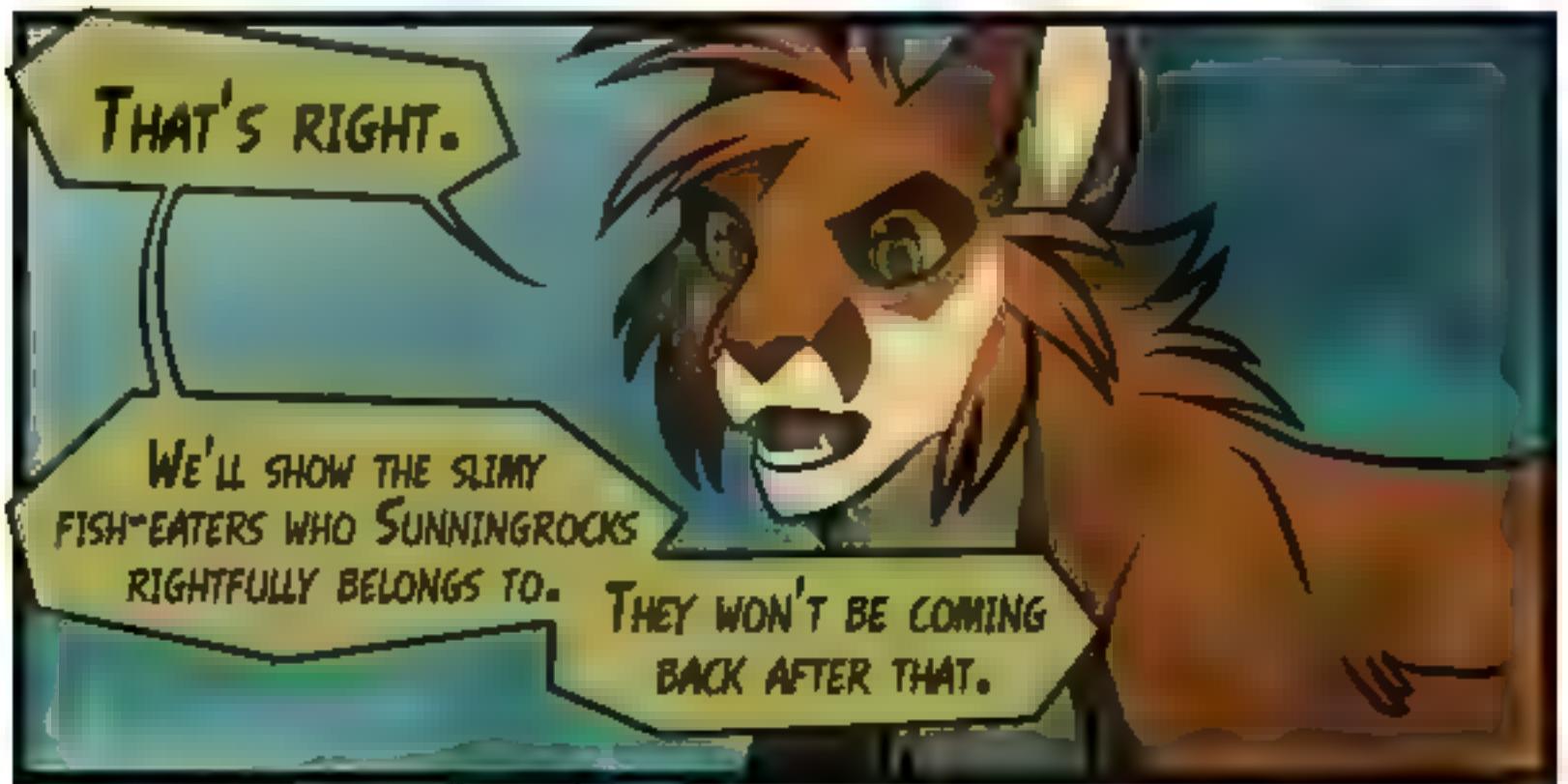
WE'RE ALL JUST TIRED.



BUT WE'LL FIGHT
BACK HARDER NEXT
TIME.



WE'RE RETAKING
SUNNINGROCKS...?



WE'LL SHOW THE SLIMY
FISH-EATERS WHO SUNNINGROCKS
RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO.

THEY WON'T BE COMING
BACK AFTER THAT.



BUT WE SHOULD TAKE SOME
TIME TO RECOVER FIRST. MAYBE ONE OF YOU
WILL JOIN US IN THE BATTLE.



YEAH! I'LL CHASE
THOSE FISH-BREATHS OFF
OUR LAND EASY!



NO CHANCE. HE'LL
BE FAR TOO YOUNG.

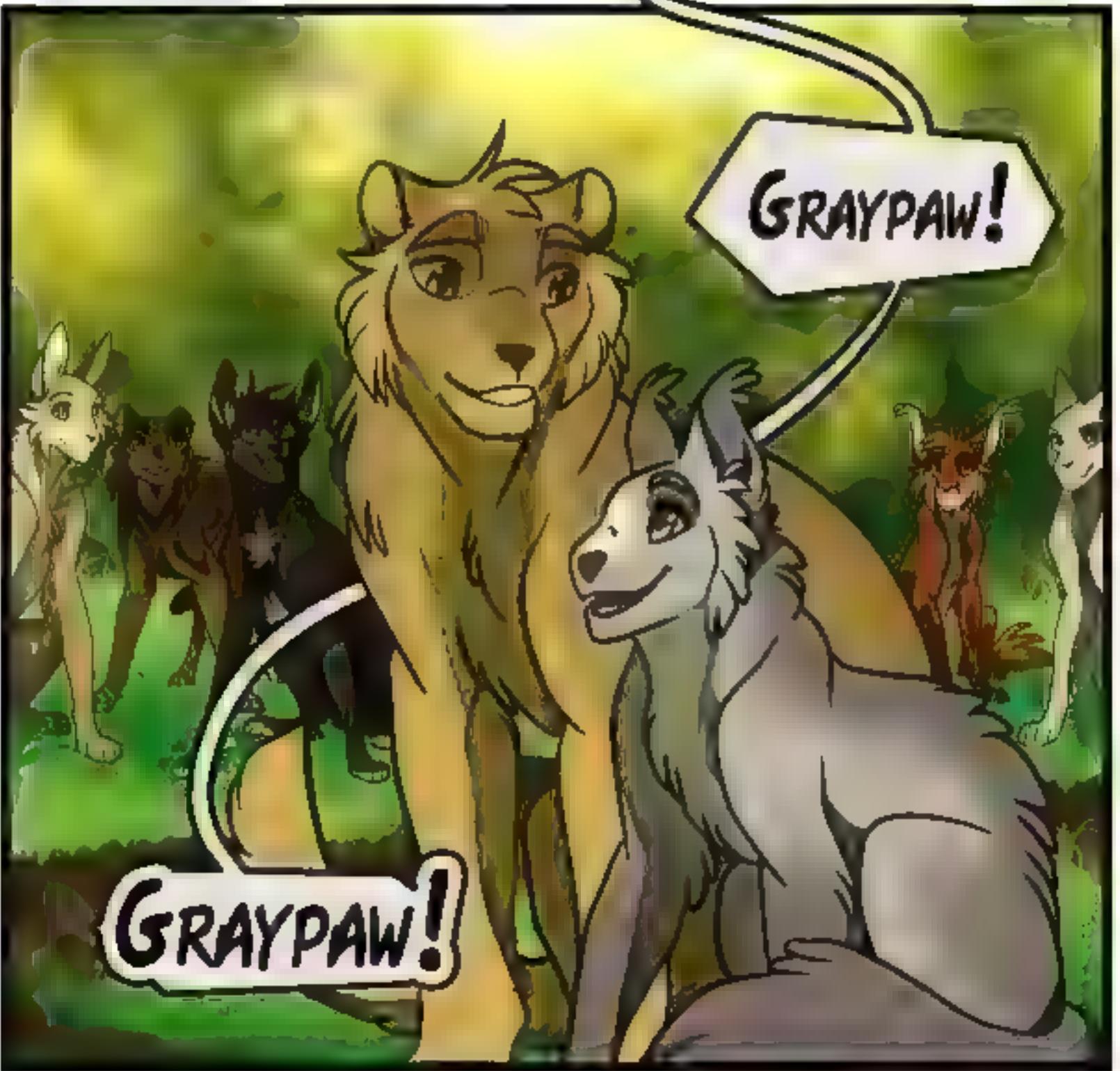
GRAYKIT WILL BE
APPRENTICED SOON. WOULD
HE BE COMING?

YEEEEE!

DON'T BE SO
EXCITED!



GRAYPAW!



GRAYPAW!

GRAYPAW!



SO YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE
TO SHOW YOU AROUND.

WE'LL DO THE HONORS.



COME ON, LIONHEART!

YEAH, WE KNOW
EVERYTHING!

I DON'T THINK SO,
APPRENTICES.



LET'S ASK YOUR MENTORS.

OH, THEY'LL SAY YES,
THEY'RE THE BEST!

WE'LL SEE...



REDTAIL!



OH-



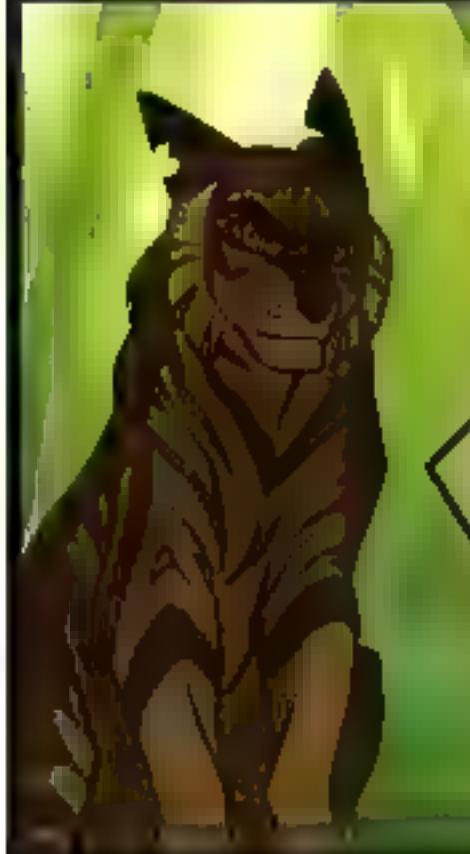
Hey, LIONHEART!



CARE TO JOIN US
SHOWING YOUNG GRAYPAW
AROUND THE TERRITORY?



YOUR APPRENTICES
SEEM EAGER TO COME.



GLADLY.

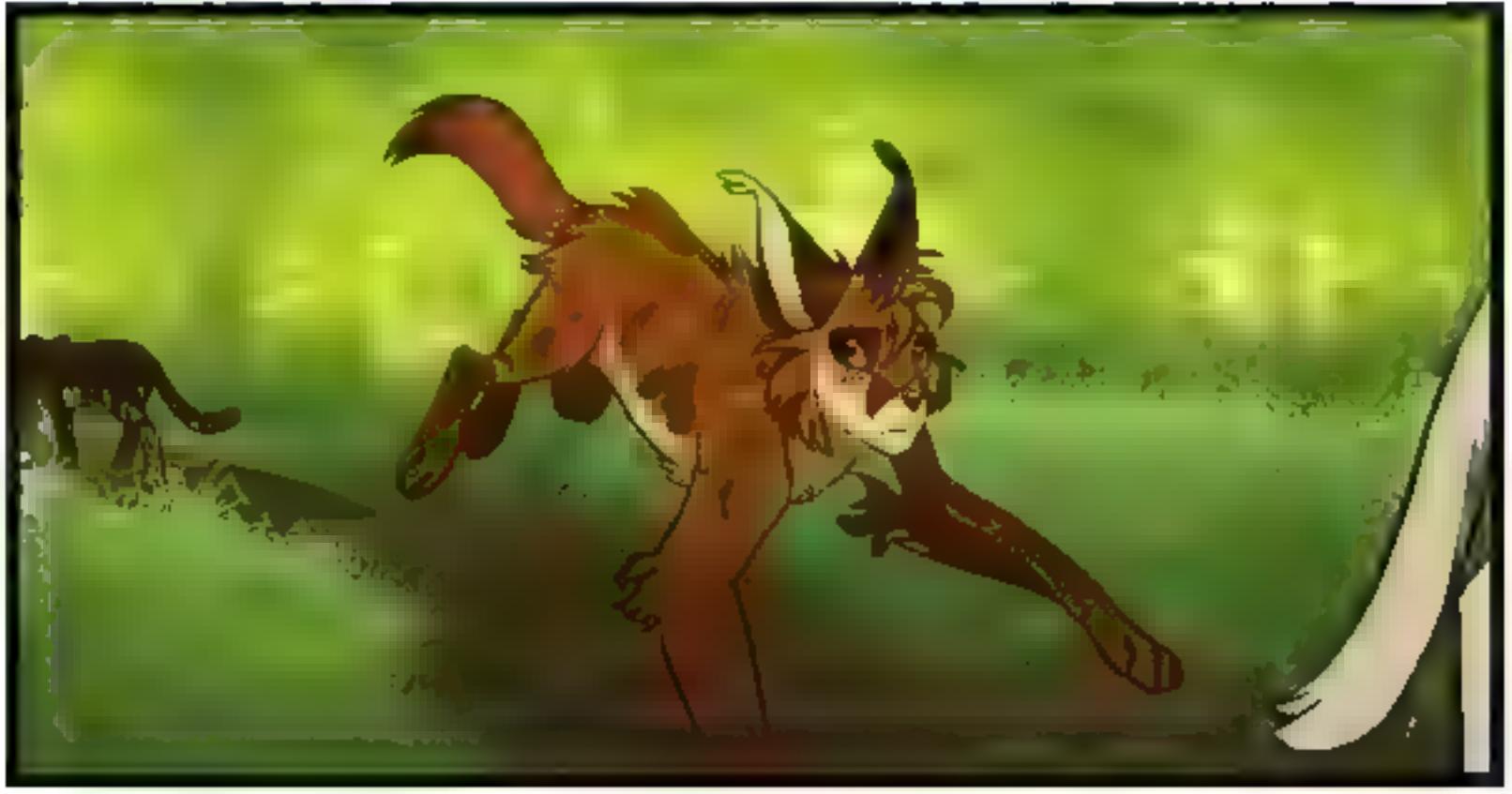
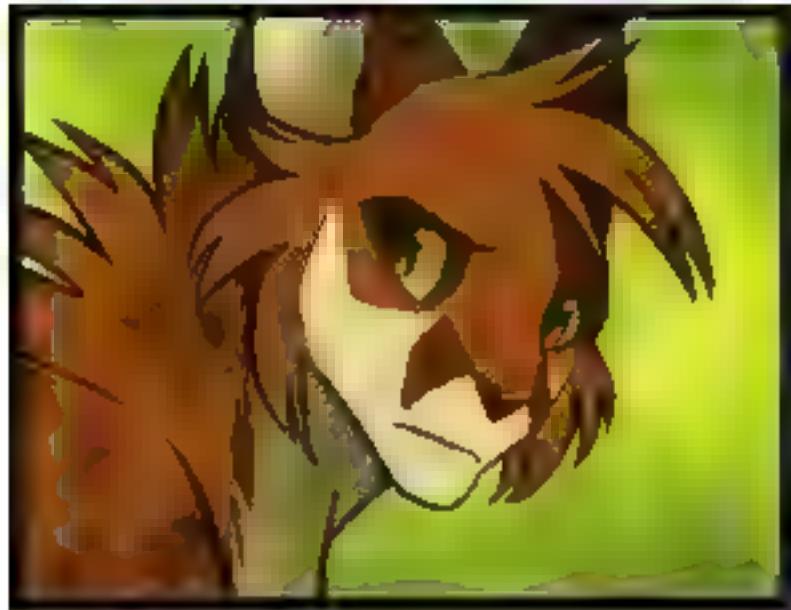


I'D LOVE TO!



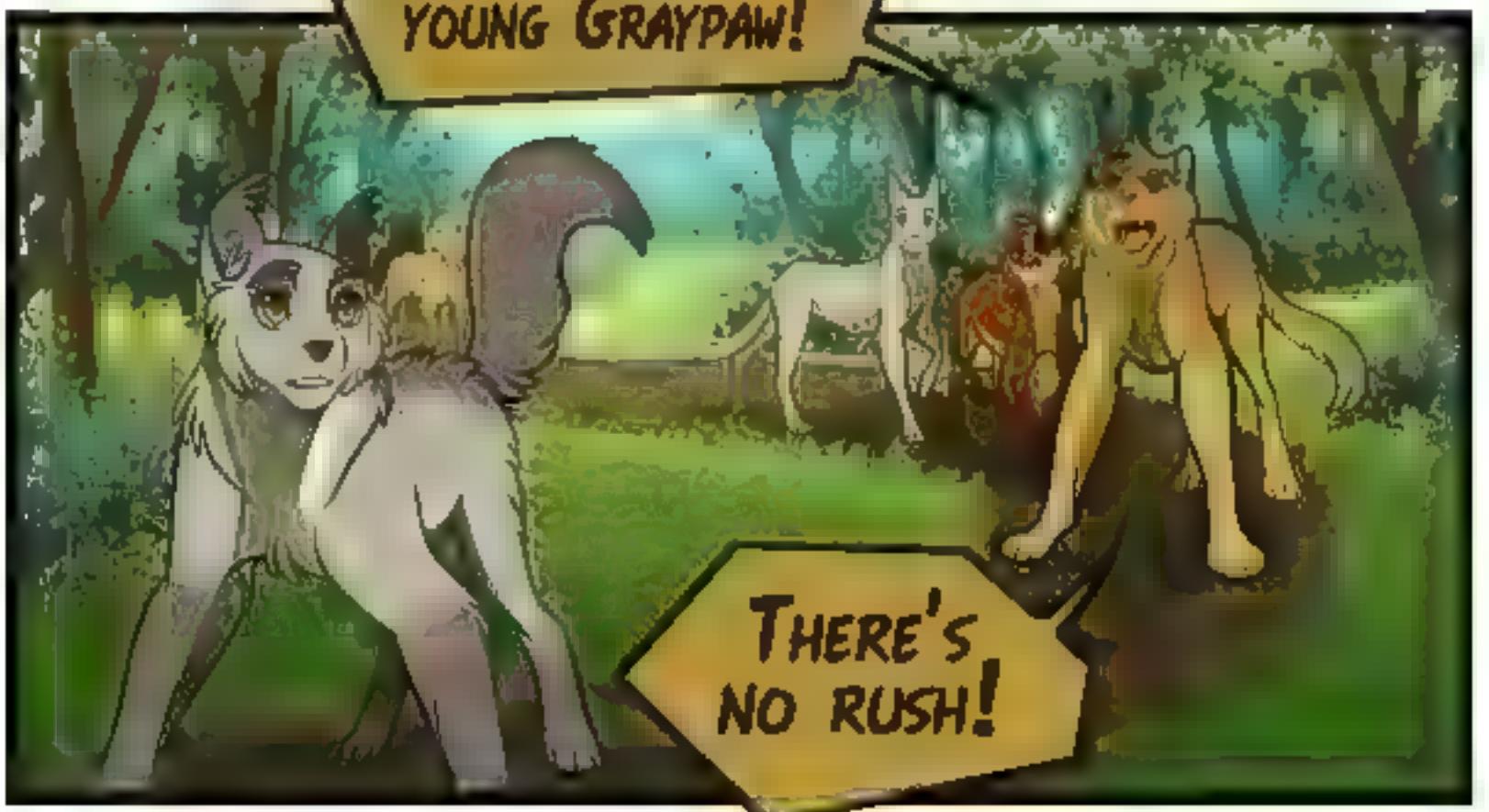
ARE YOU COMING?

No.





SLOW DOWN,
YOUNG GRAYPAW!



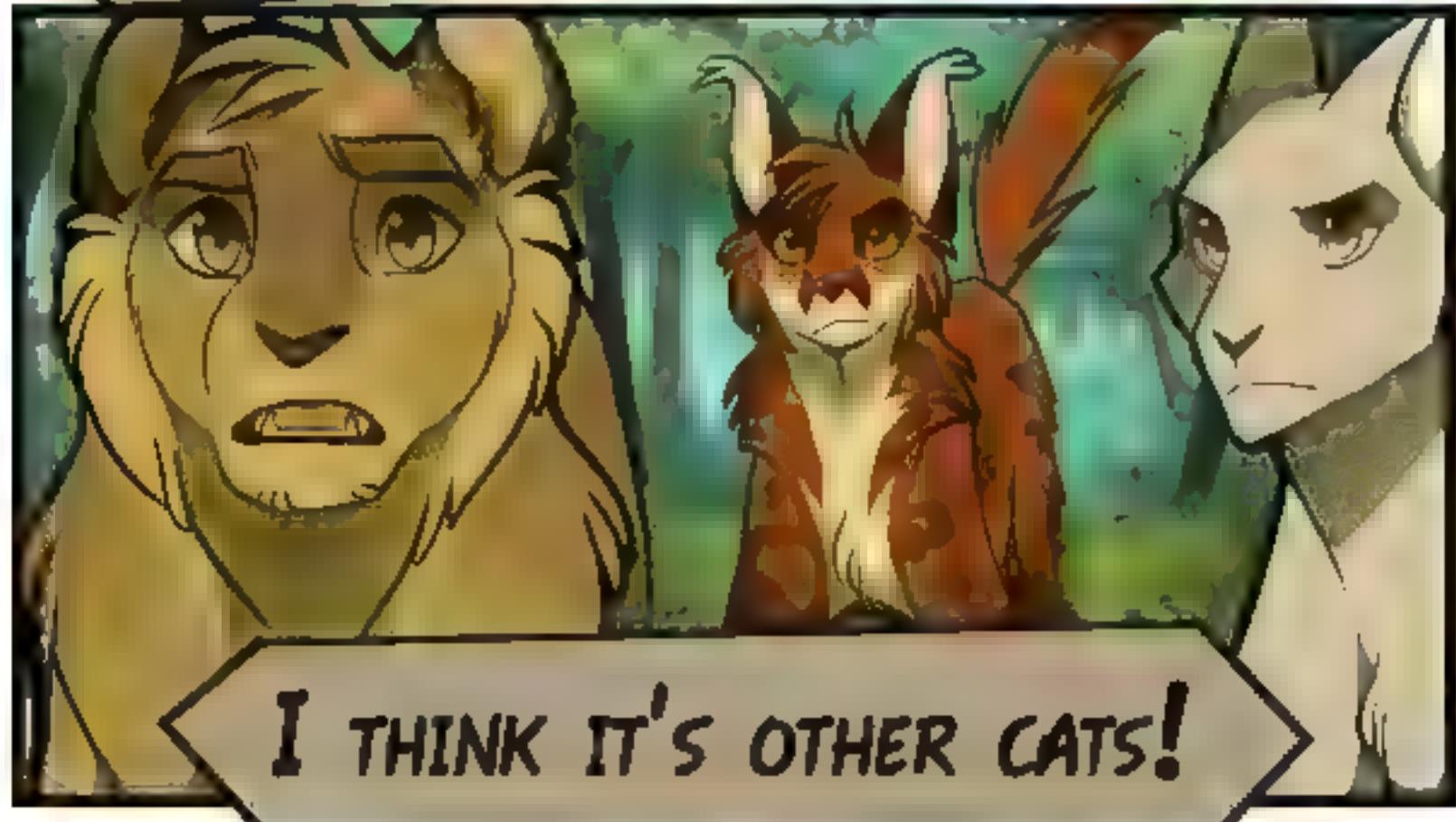
THERE'S
NO RUSH!



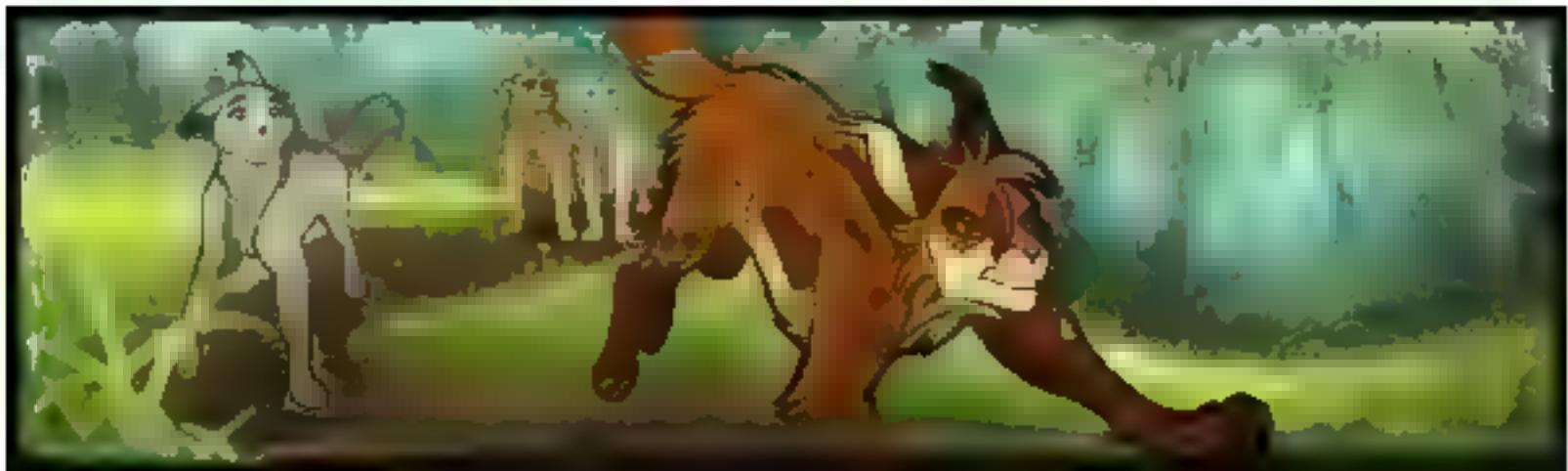
I MISS HAVING
THAT KIND OF ENERGY.

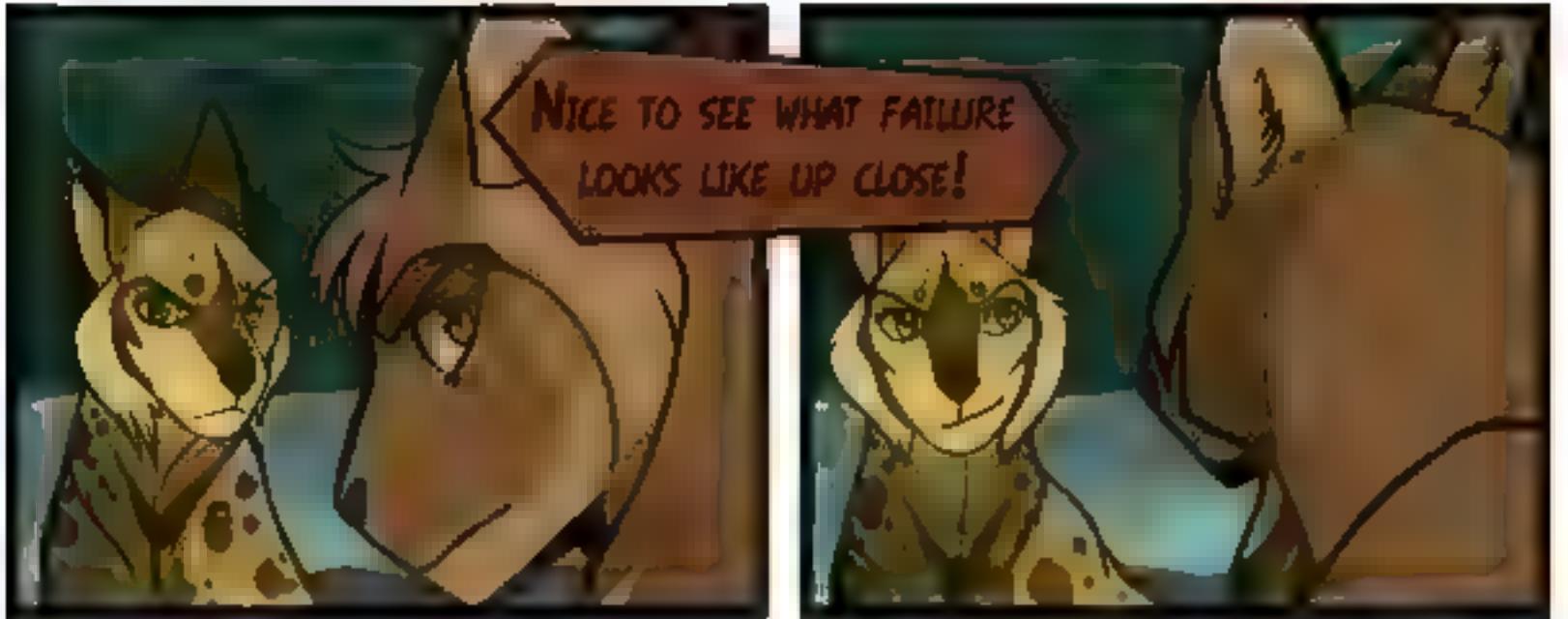


HEY, I SMELL SOMETHING
FUNNY THIS WAY!



I THINK IT'S OTHER CATS!

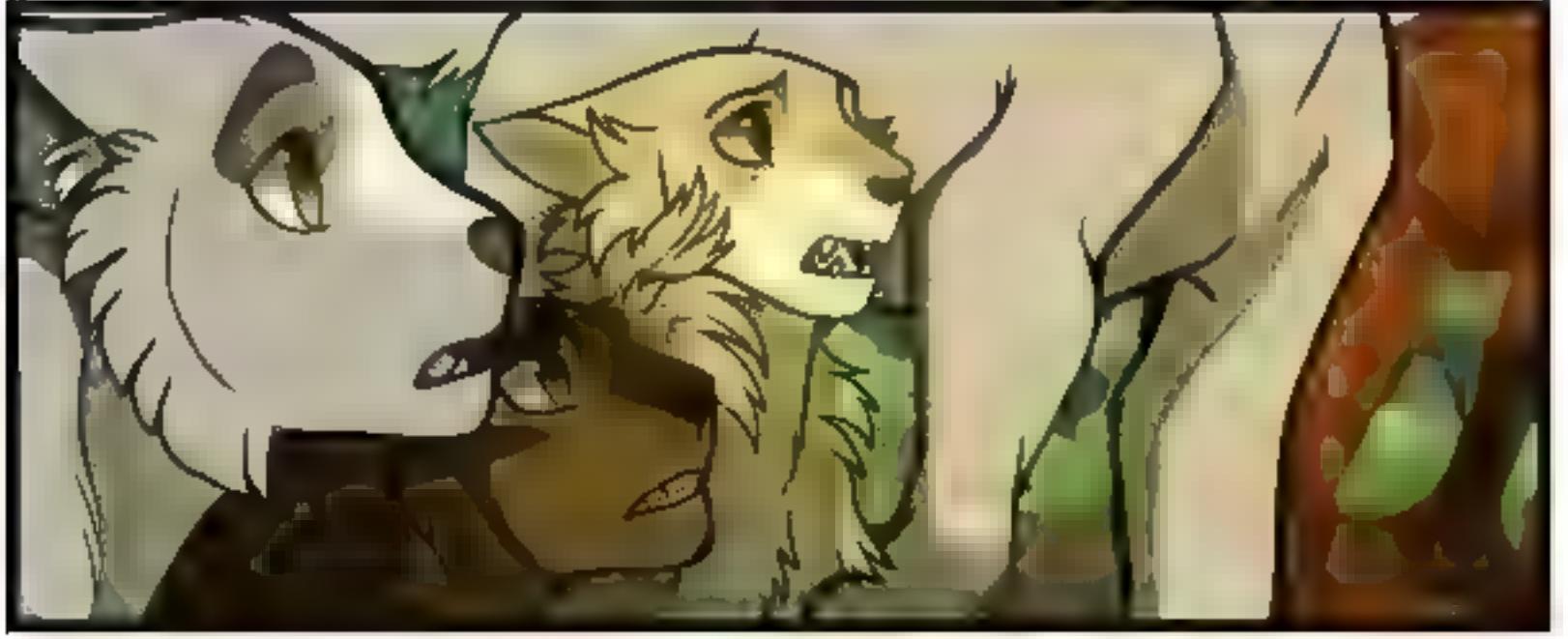


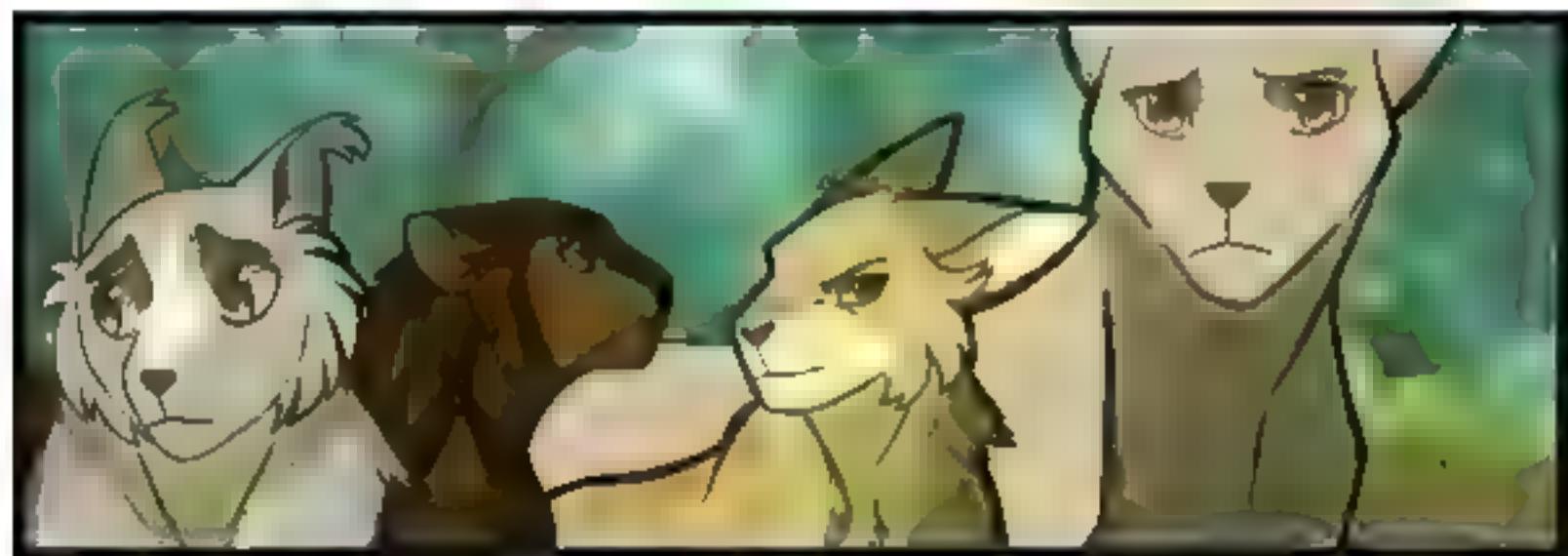


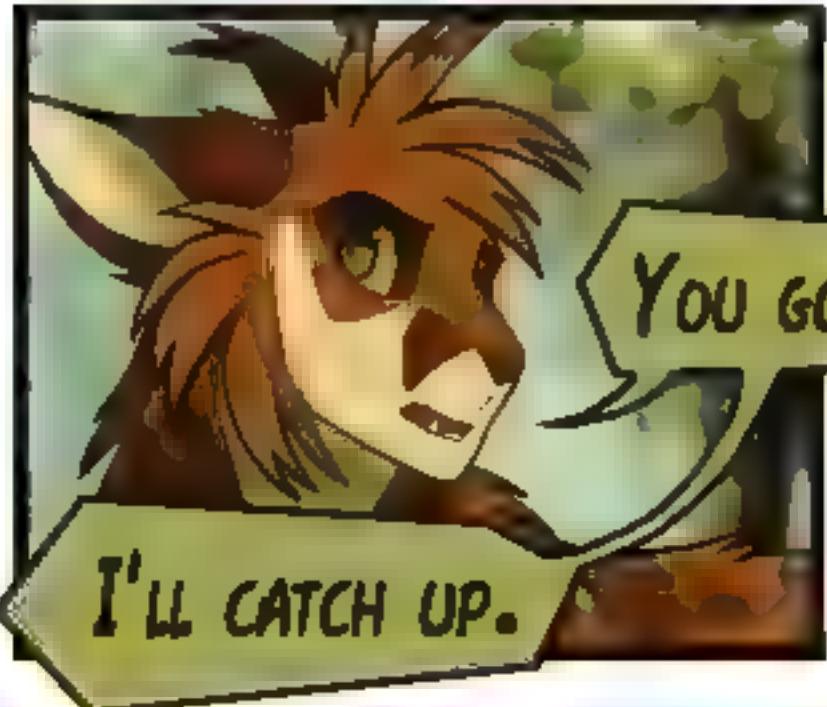
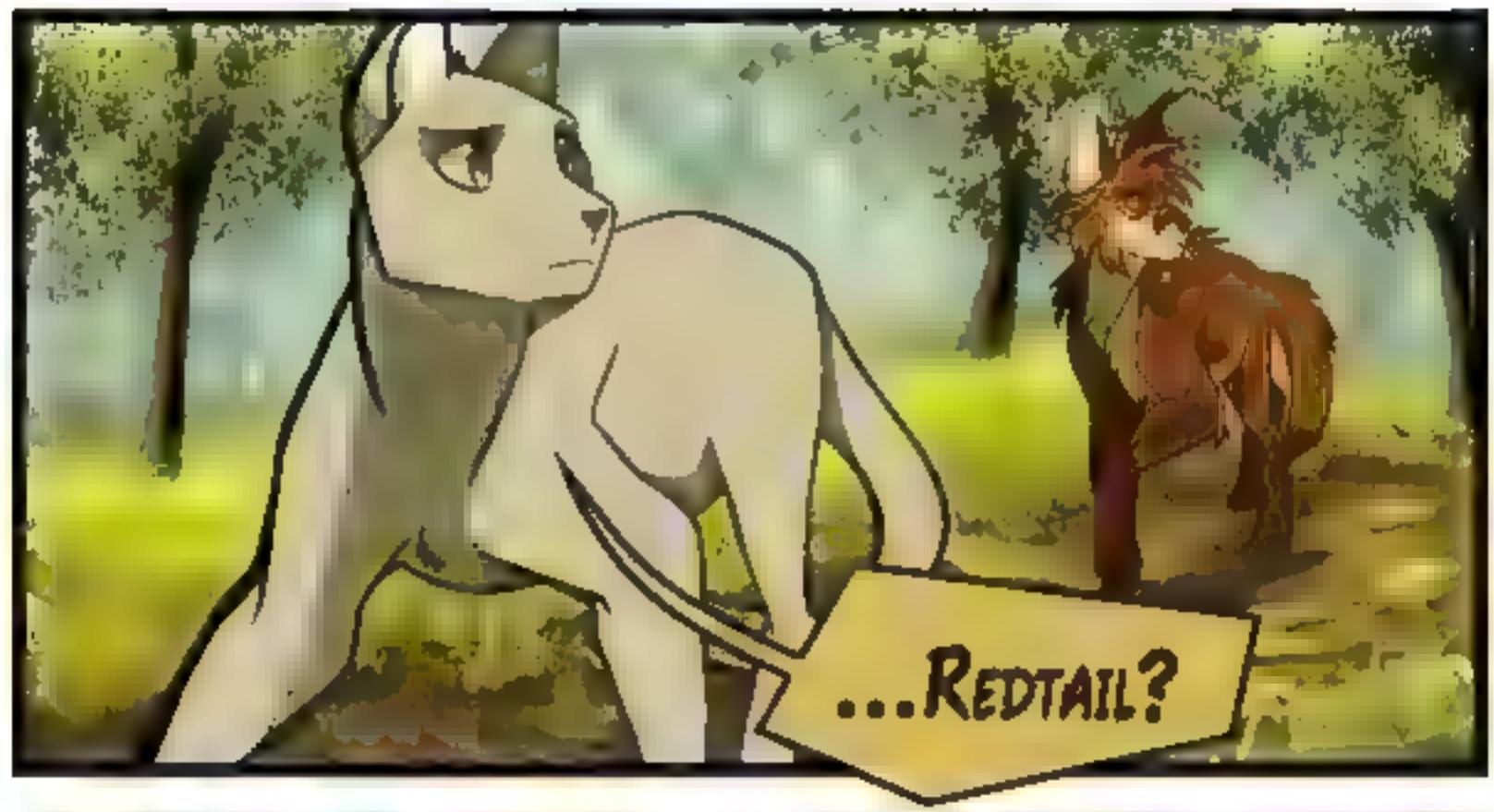
NICE TO SEE WHAT FAILURE
LOOKS LIKE UP CLOSE!



HOW DARE YOU!
WE'LL TEACH YOU--











THIS WASN'T MY IDEA.

WE NEED THIS TERRITORY
FOR FOOD, AND YOU'RE USING
IT TO BATHE IN THE SUN.

I WOULD NEVER...

THAT DOESN'T
BOther YOU?

OF COURSE IT DOES!

BUT WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW!



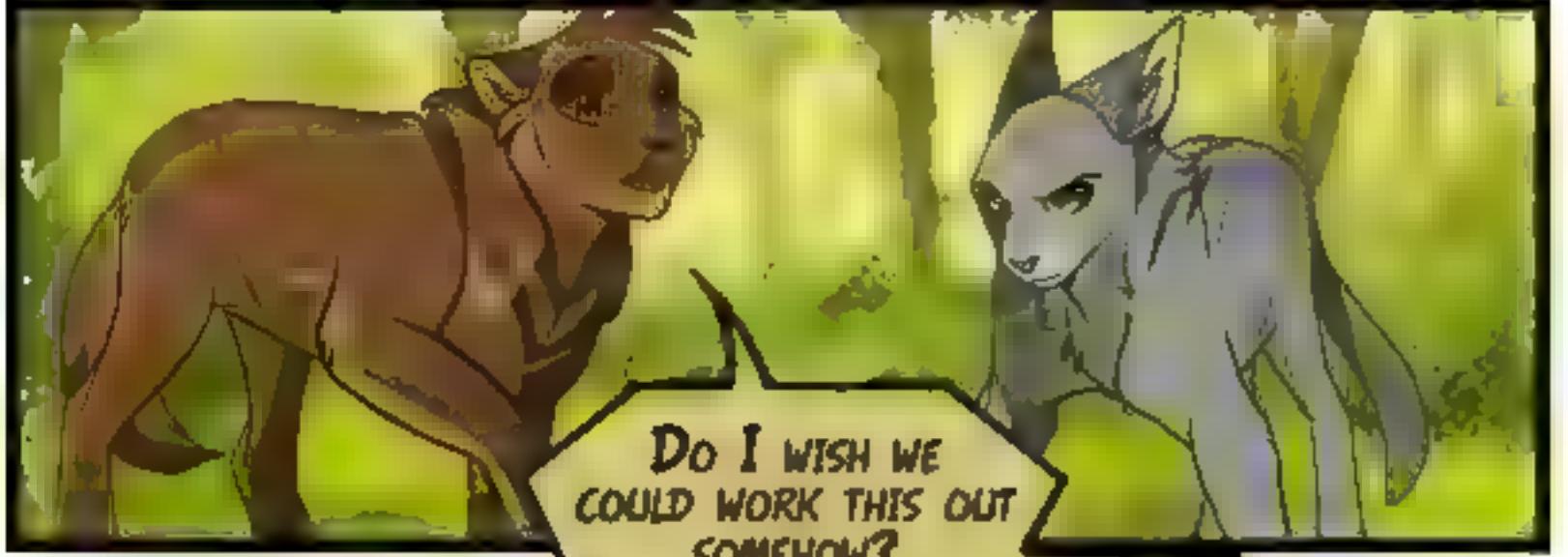
I CAN'T SAY I'M
SORRY, BLUESTAR.



I'LL ALWAYS BE
LOYAL TO RIVERCLAN.



JUST AS YOU'LL ALWAYS
BE LOYAL TO THUNDERCLAN.



DO I WISH WE
COULD WORK THIS OUT
SOMEHOW?



OF COURSE,
I ALWAYS HAVE.



BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.



IT NEVER HAS BEEN,
AND WE BOTH KNOW IT.



...I KNOW.



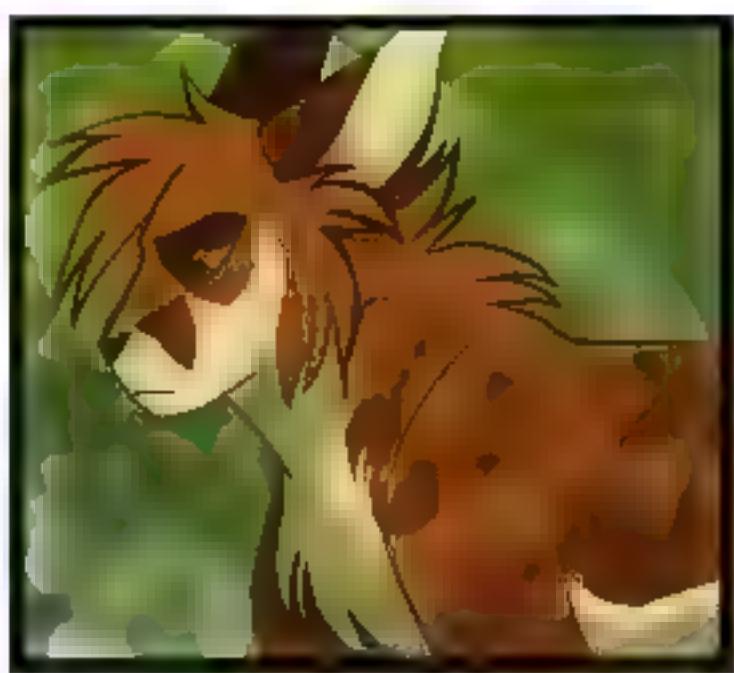
BUT I WILL TAKE
THIS LAND BACK.

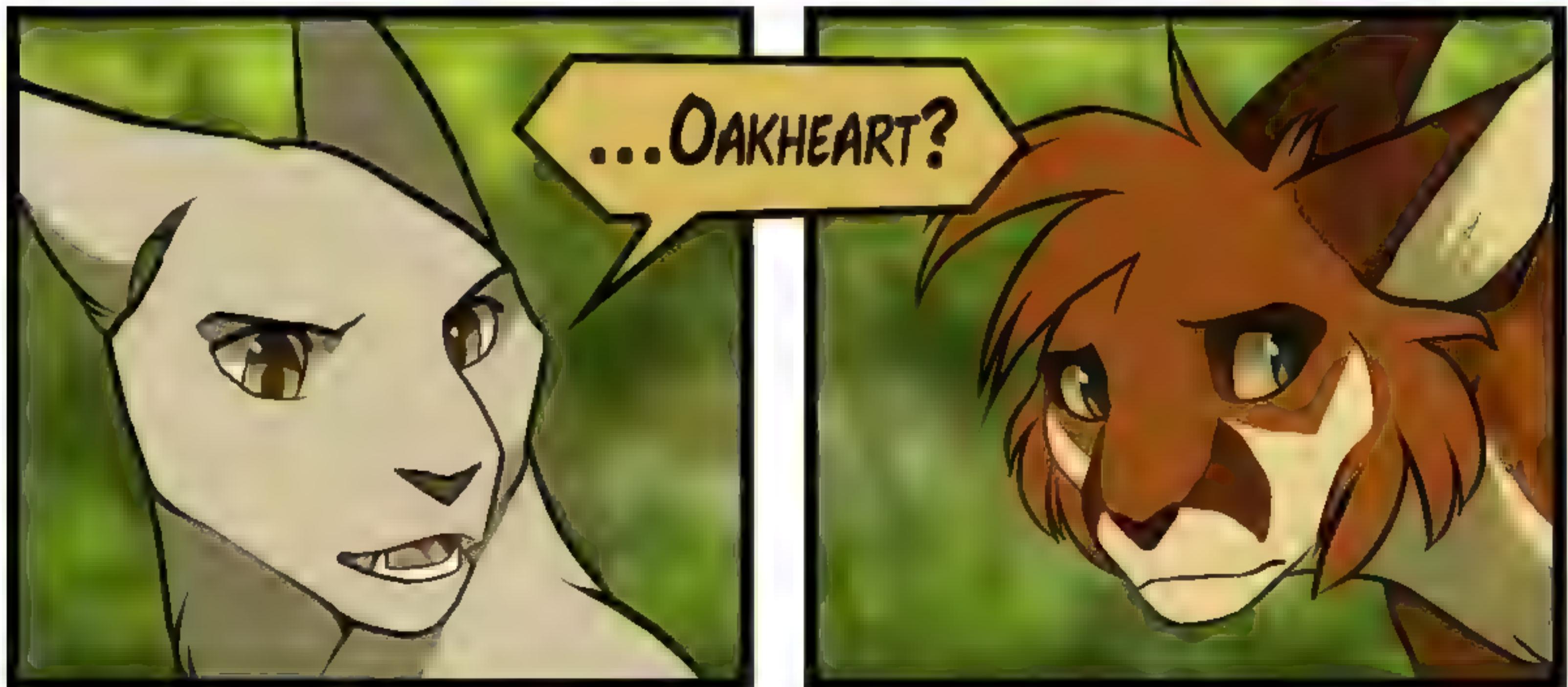


DON'T THINK IT
YOURS FOREVER.



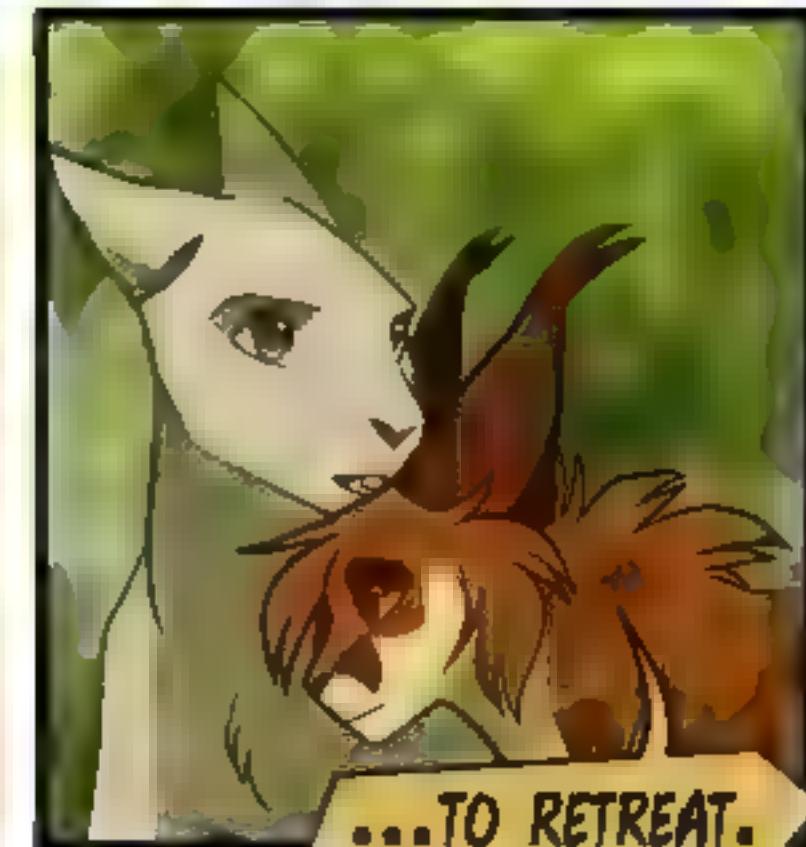
I WOULDN'T HAVE
IT ANY OTHER WAY.











YOU HAVE TO
KNOW WHEN TO FIGHT,
AND WHEN...

...TO RETREAT.



DON'T WORRY
TOO MUCH ABOUT IT,
YOUNG ONE.

WHEN A LEADER OR
DEPUTY TELLS YOU WHAT
TO DO, YOU DO IT.



IT'S THEIR JOB TO
DECIDE IF IT'S WORTH
IT TO FIGHT

OR TO REGAIN THAT
VICTORY LATER.



WILLOWPELT.

SPOTTEDLEAF.

HEY, GUYS.

HOW IS THE PATROL?

IS GRAYPAW
DOING WELL?

ABSOLUTELY.



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

I NEEDED TO GATHER
HERBS AND WILLOWPELT CAME
AS MY BODYGUARD.

MIND IF WE STEAL
OUR BROTHER?



ONLY IF
I CAN COME.

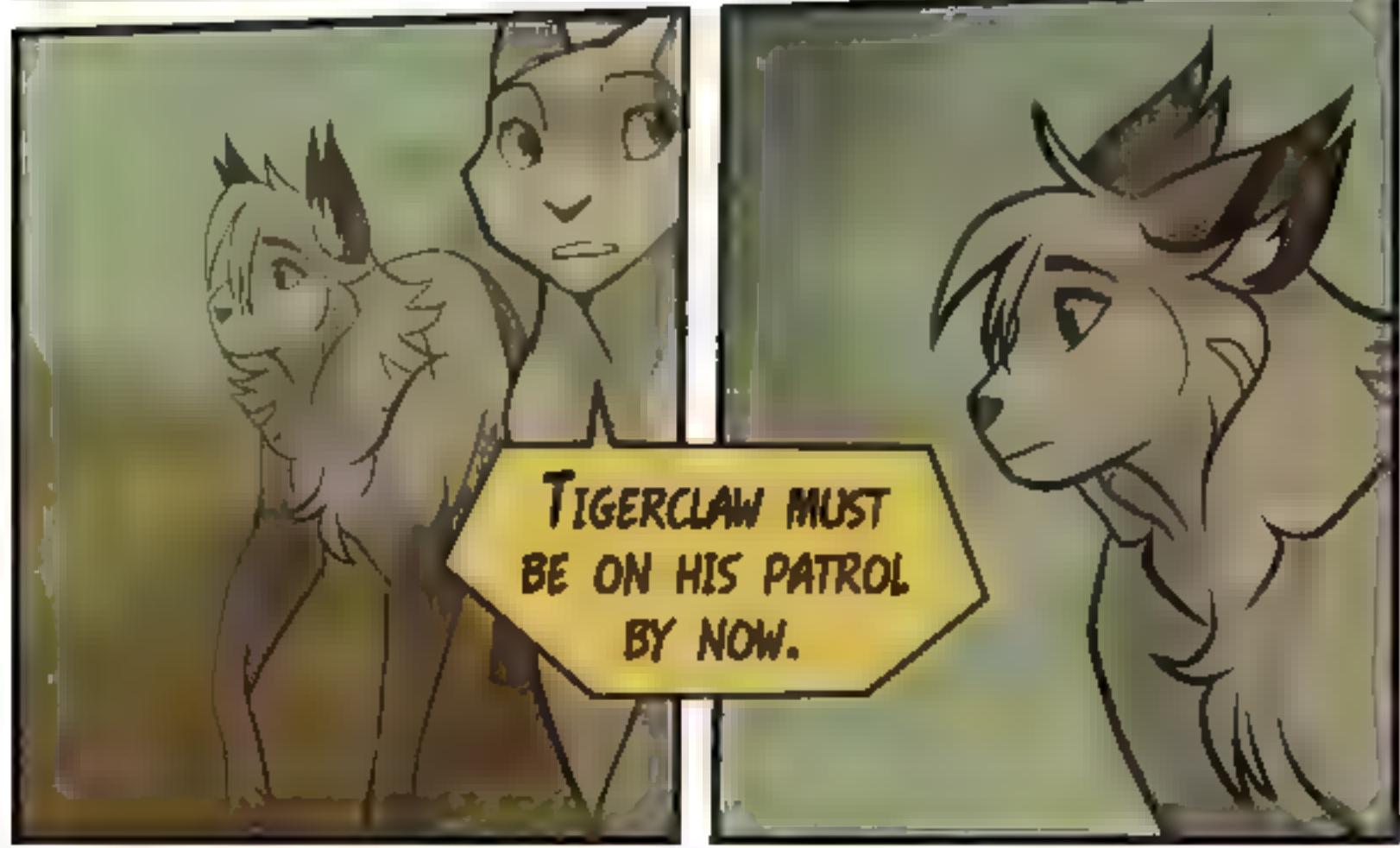
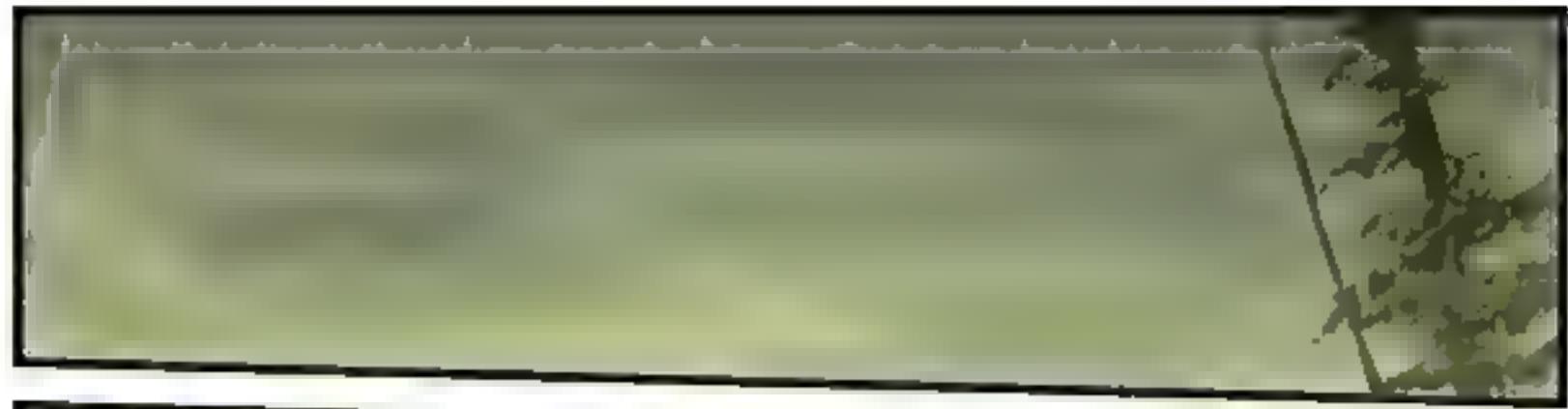


LIONHEART, THINK
YOU CAN HANDLE THE
APPRENTICES?



CERTAINLY.
WE'LL MEET YOU
BACK AT CAMP.







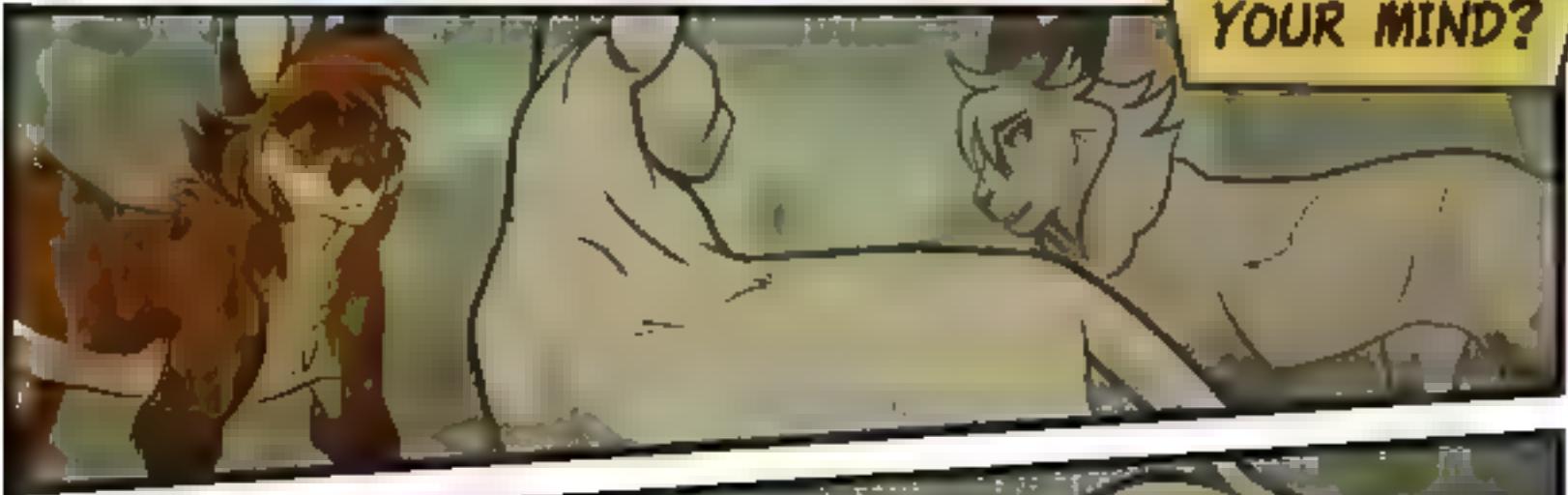
SO GRAYPAW
IS DOING WELL?

HE'LL BE A GREAT
WARRIOR ONE DAY.

YOU MUST BE PROUD.

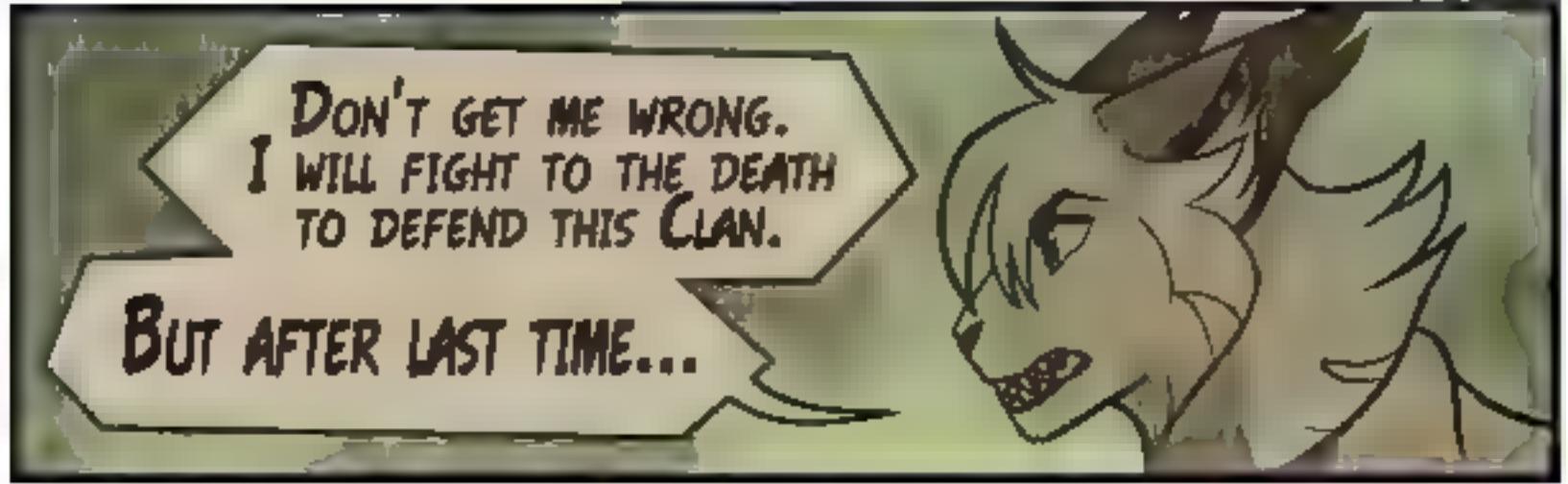
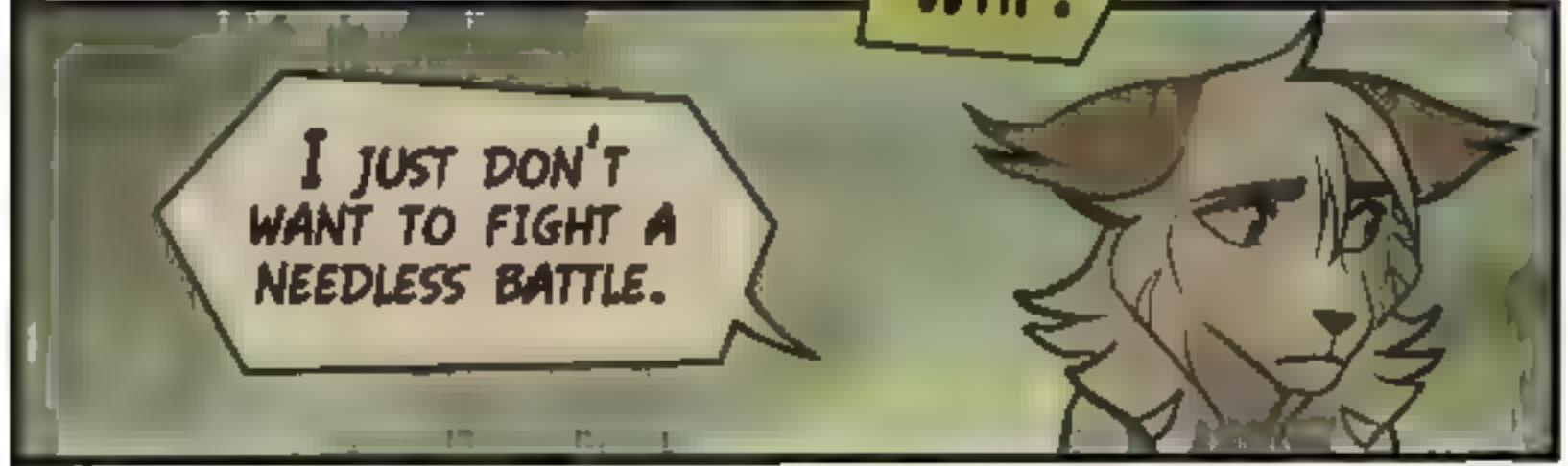
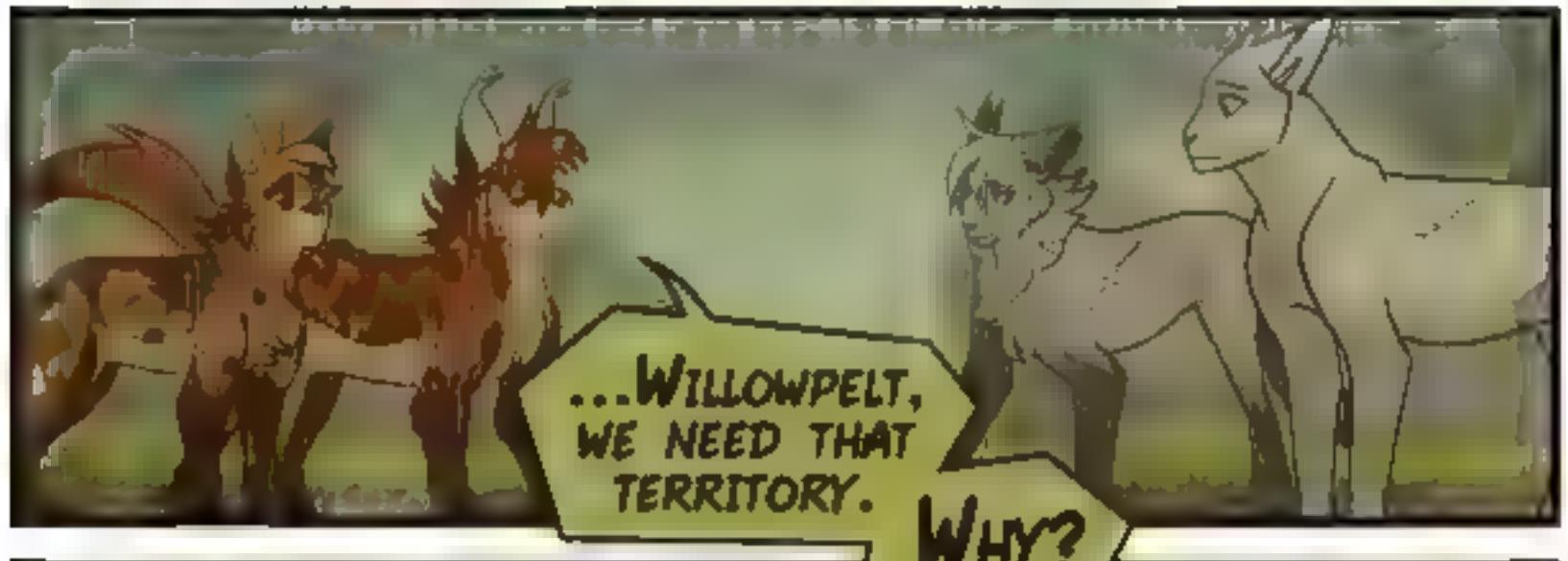


WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND?



ARE YOU SURE
WE HAVE TO ATTACK
RIVERCLAN AGAIN?

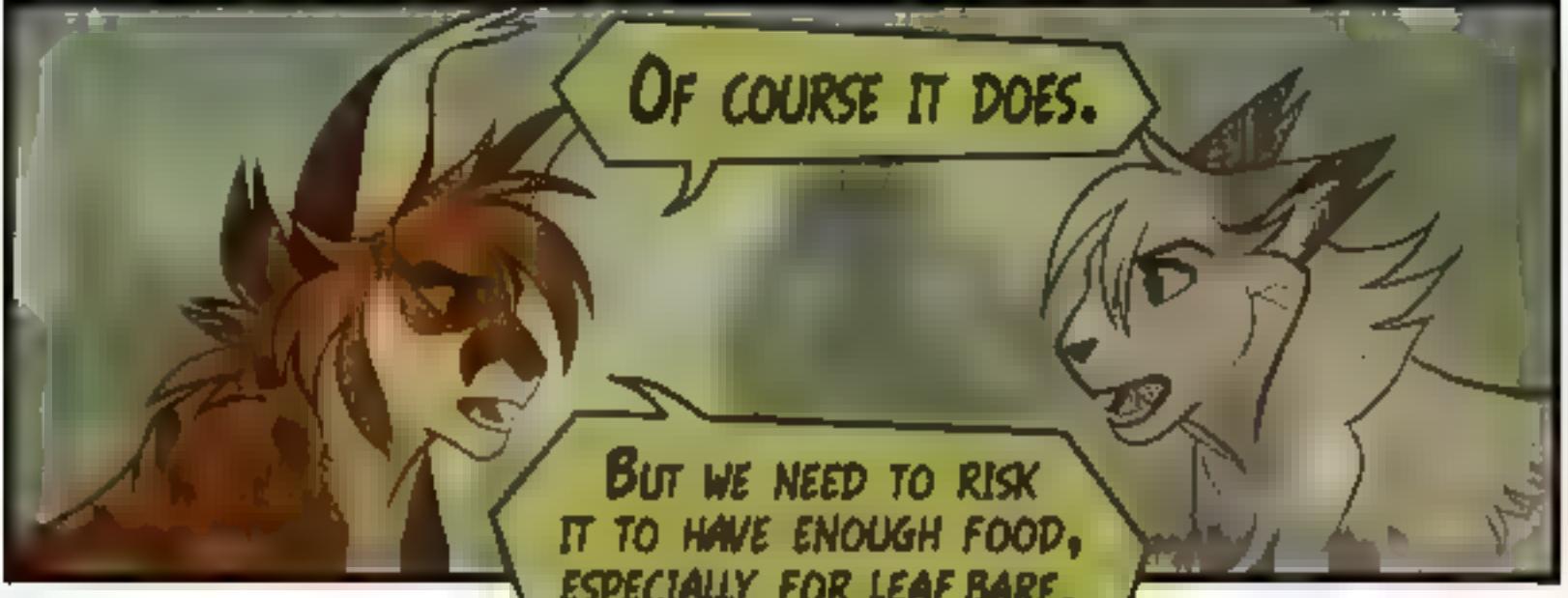






SOMEONE COULD GET HURT.
SOMEONE COULD DIE.

THAT DOESN'T
BOther YOU?



OF COURSE IT DOES.

BUT WE NEED TO RISK
IT TO HAVE ENOUGH FOOD,
ESPECIALLY FOR LEAF BARE.



BUT...



WILLOWPELT,
JUST TELL US WHAT'S
WRONG.



GRAYPAW'S FATHER
ISN'T A THUNDERCLAN
CAT, IS HE?

...NO.



I PROMISE WE
BROKE IT OFF!

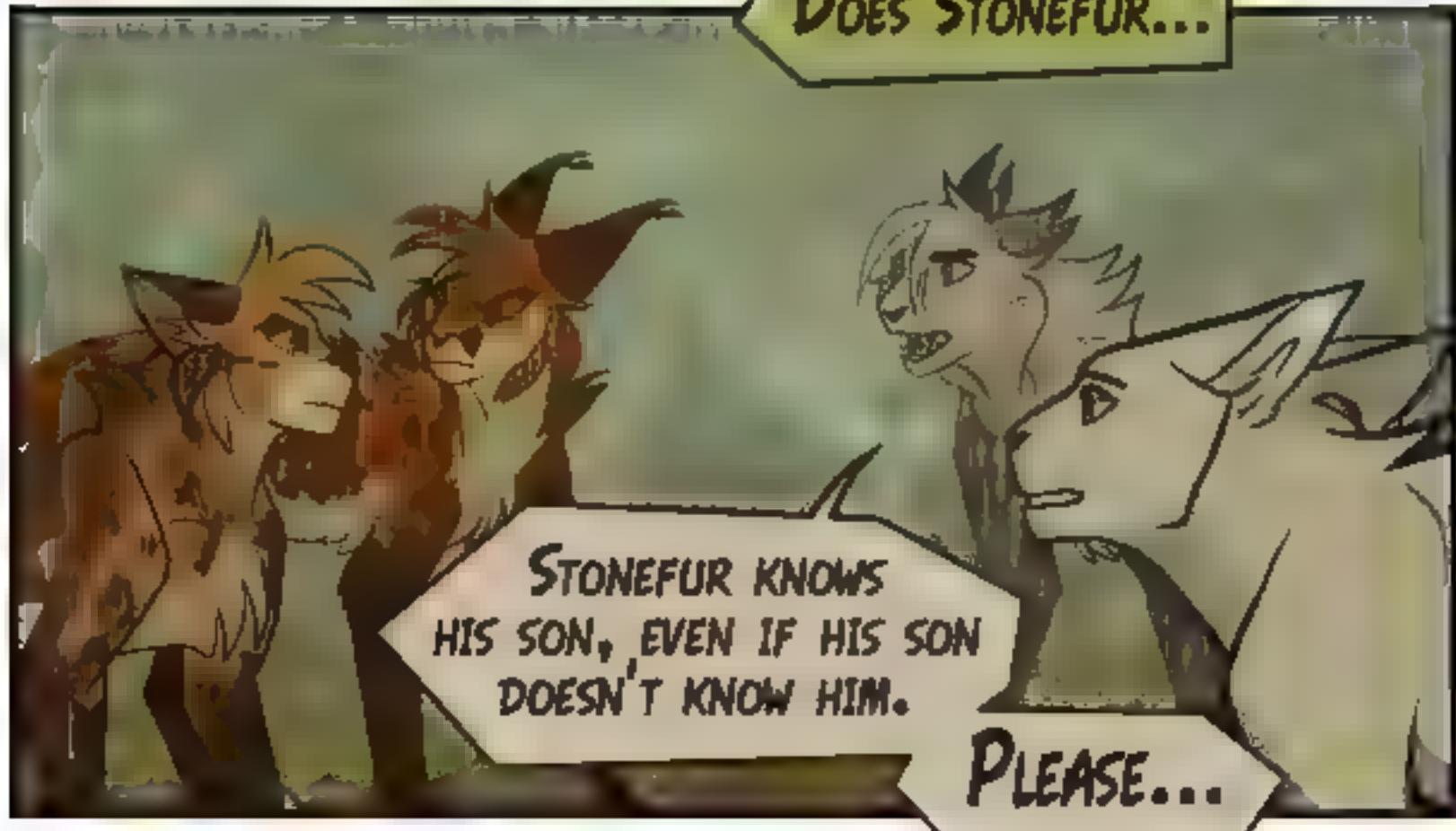
STONEFUR--



STONEFUR?!

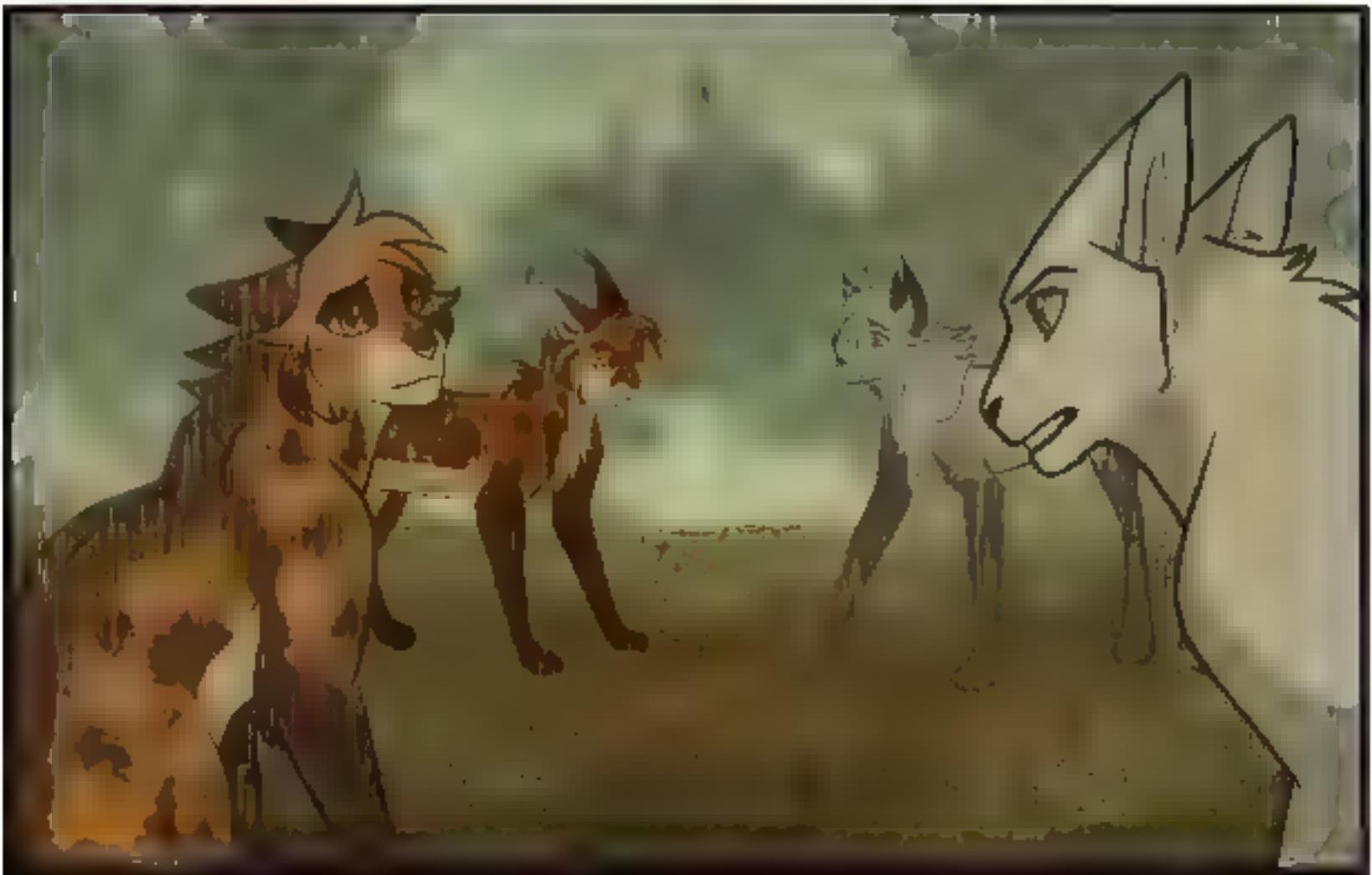
OF ALL THE CATS...



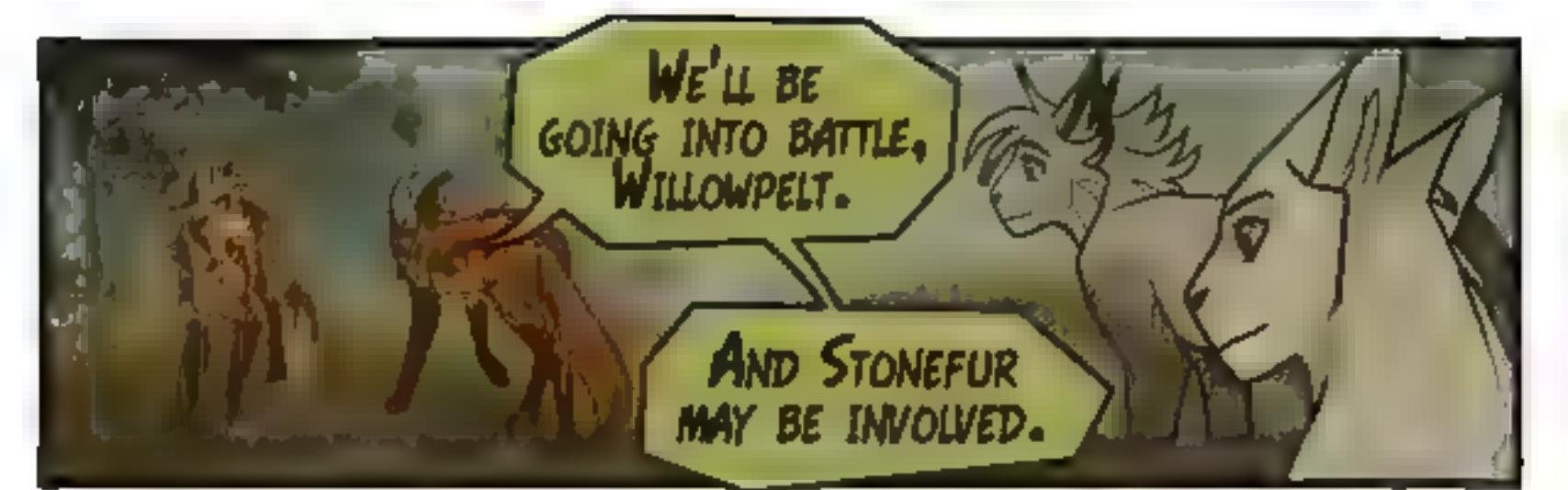




DON'T TELL
BLUESTAR.

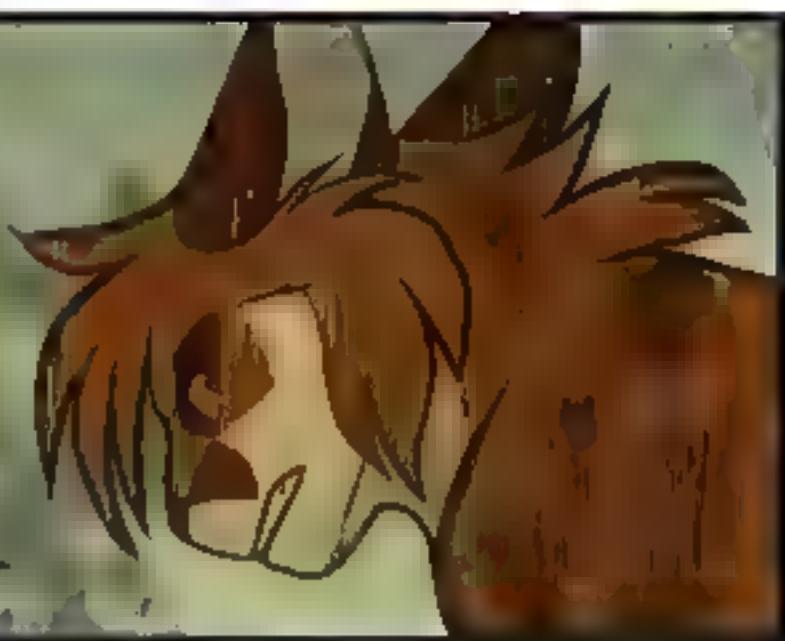






WE'LL BE
GOING INTO BATTLE,
WILLOWPELT.

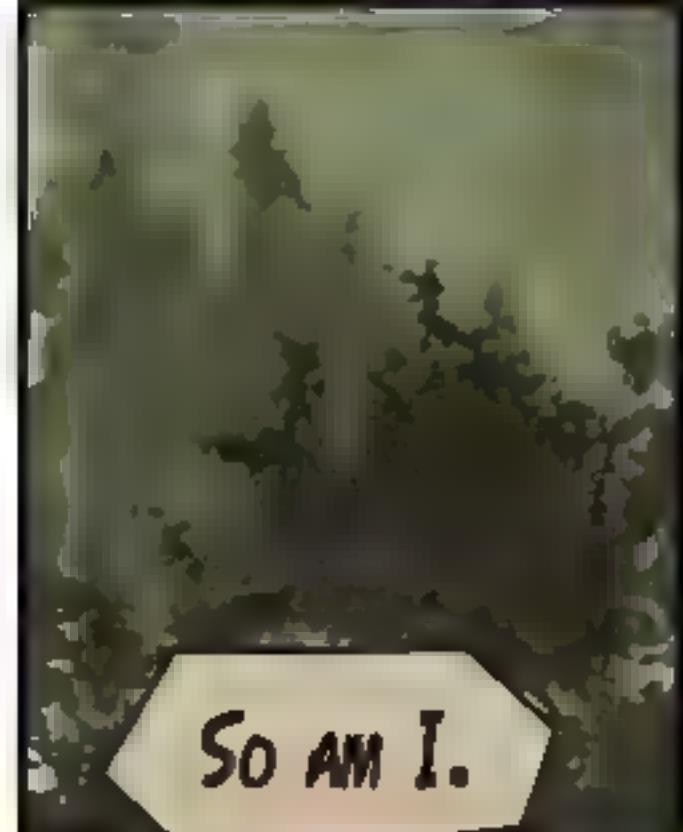
AND STONEFUR
MAY BE INVOLVED.



IF HE IS,
I WILL NOT SHEATHE
MY CLAWS.

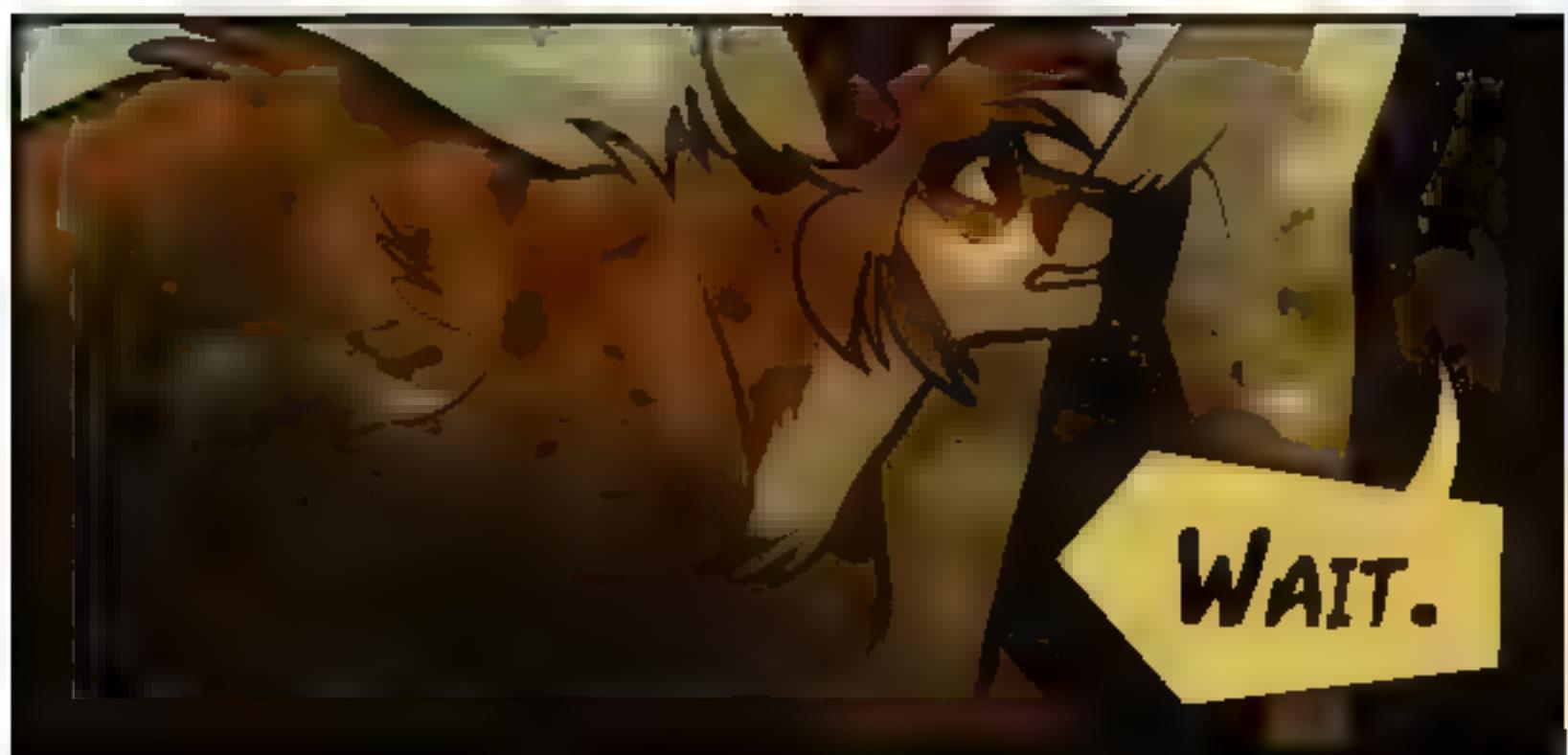
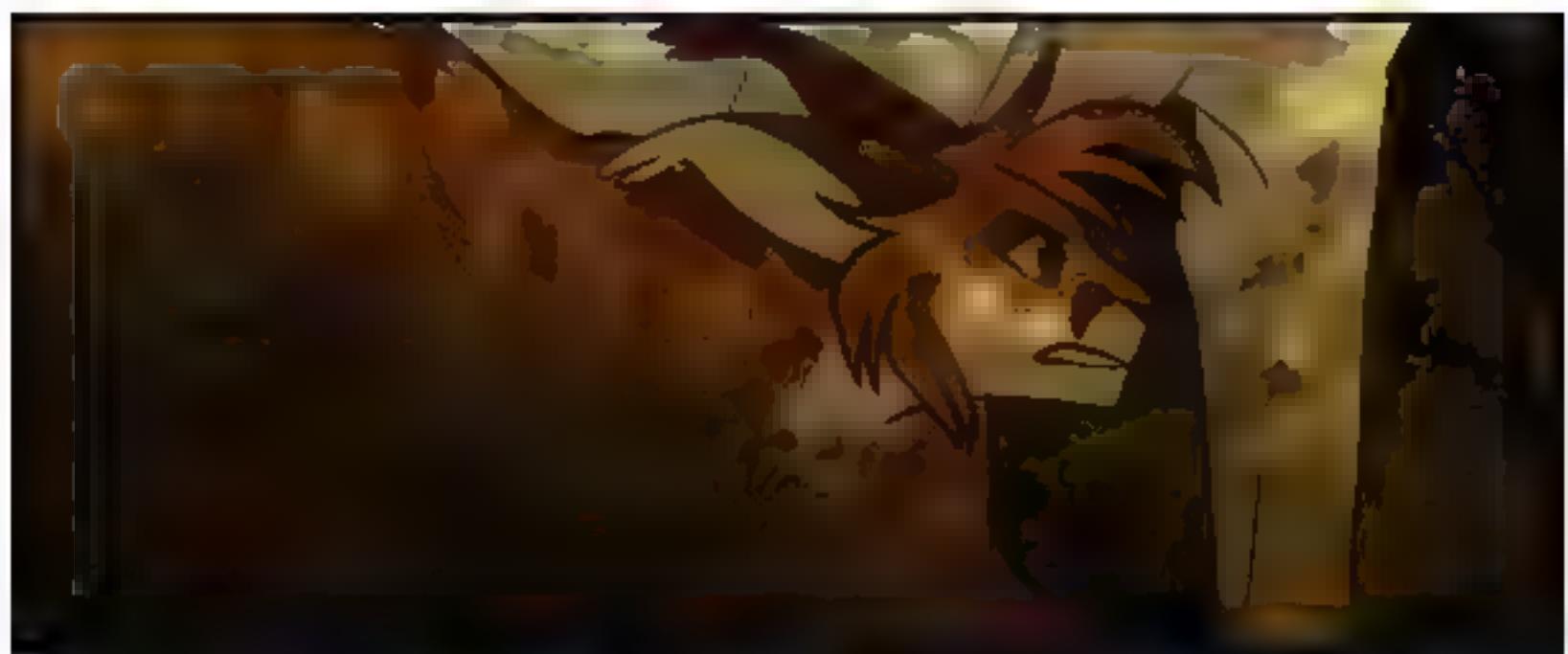


I'M SORRY.



SO AM I.







BLUESTAR AND
LIONHEART ARE HERE.

BUT I SMELL
GRAYPAW. WHAT
IF HE--

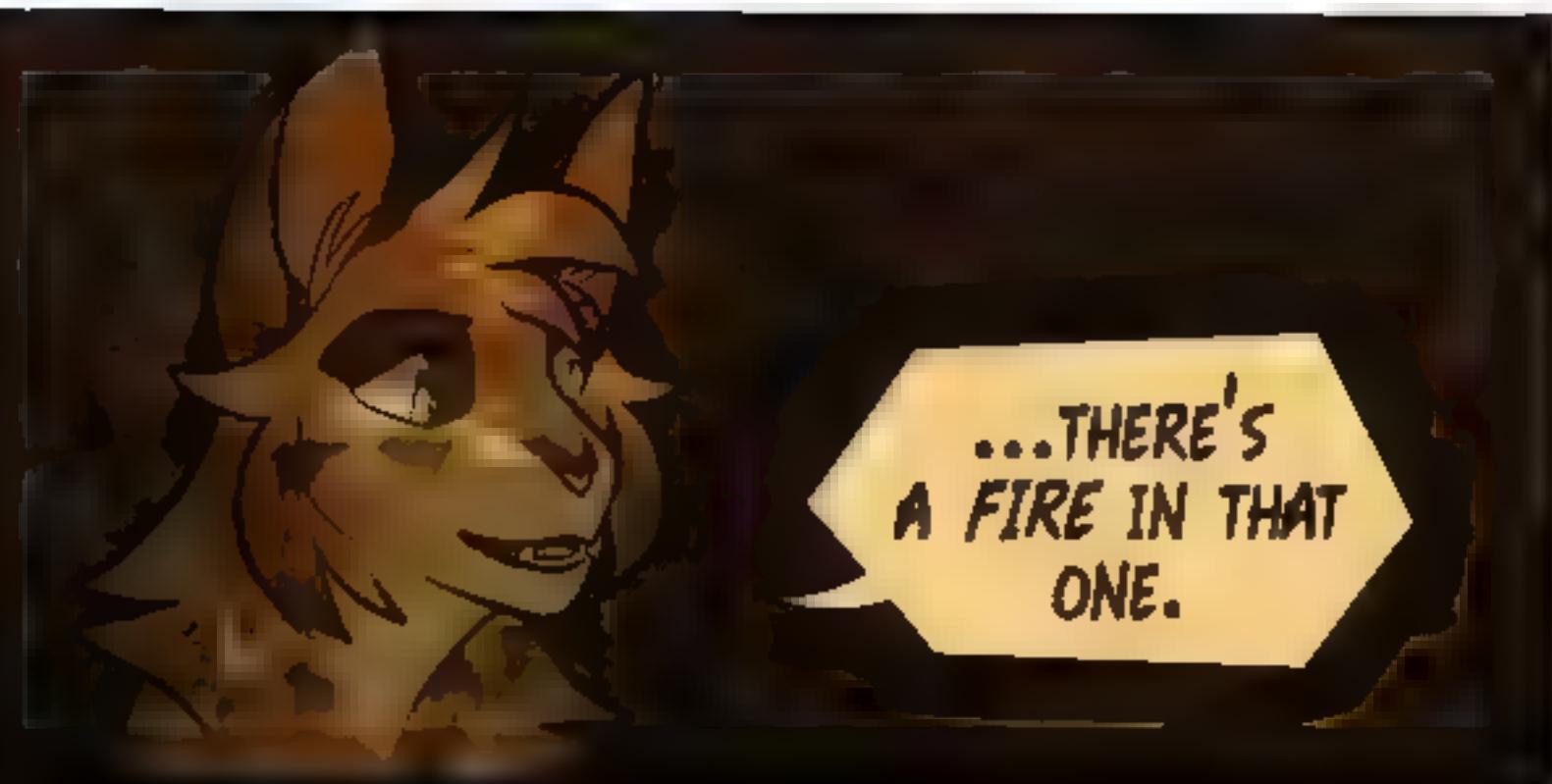
IF HE'S A THREAT,
THEY'LL HANDLE IT.

THEN HE'LL GET SOME
BATTLE PRACTICE IN.

He's just
a kit, Redtail.

YOUNGER EVEN
THAN SANDPAW.

LEAVE HIM BE.



THE KITTYPET?

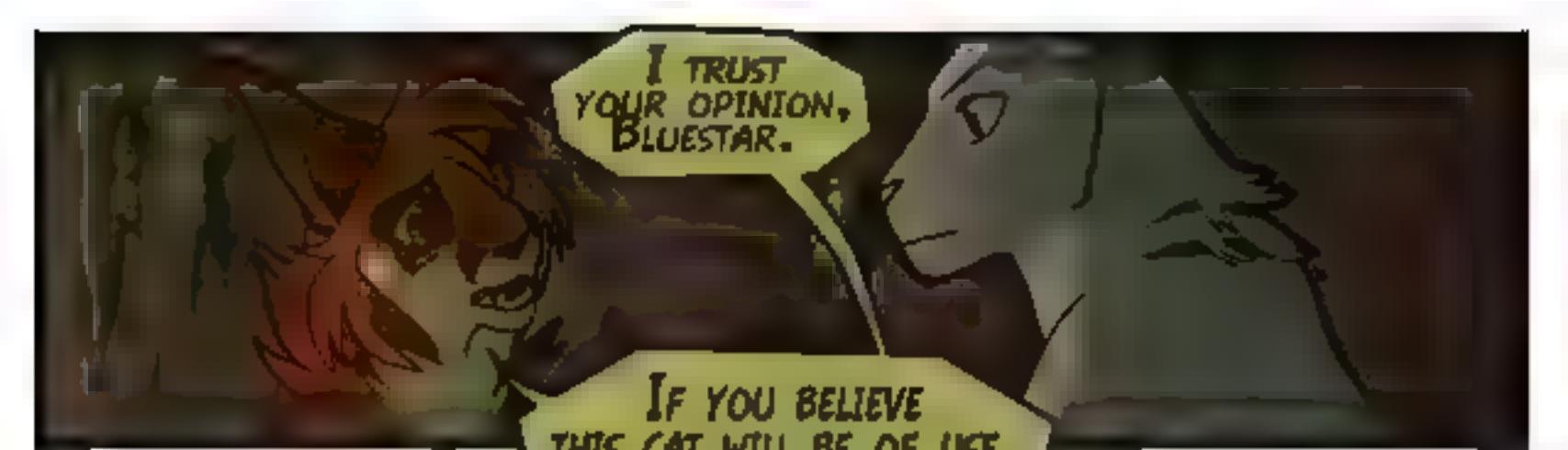
BLUESTAR, ARE
YOU SURE?

HE MAY BE JUST
ANOTHER MOUTH
TO FEED.

HE IS CAPABLE.

HE'LL BE HERE
TODAY AT SUNHIGH,
IF HE SO CHOOSES.

I TRUST YOU WILL
HELP JUDGE HIS
POTENTIAL.



I TRUST
YOUR OPINION,
BLUESTAR.

IF YOU BELIEVE
THIS CAT WILL BE OF USE,
I'M WITH YOU.



I JUST HOPE
YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING.



SO DO I.





ARE YOU NERVOUS
ABOUT THE BATTLE?

OF COURSE. BUT
IT HAS TO BE DONE.

WHITESTORM, I TRUST
YOU TO DEAL WITH THE
KITTYPET.

YES, MY
DEPUTY.

I'LL ASSESS HIM MYSELF
WHEN I GET BACK.



WE SHOULD FOCUS
ON RIVERCLAN.

WHAT ARE WE
WAITING FOR?

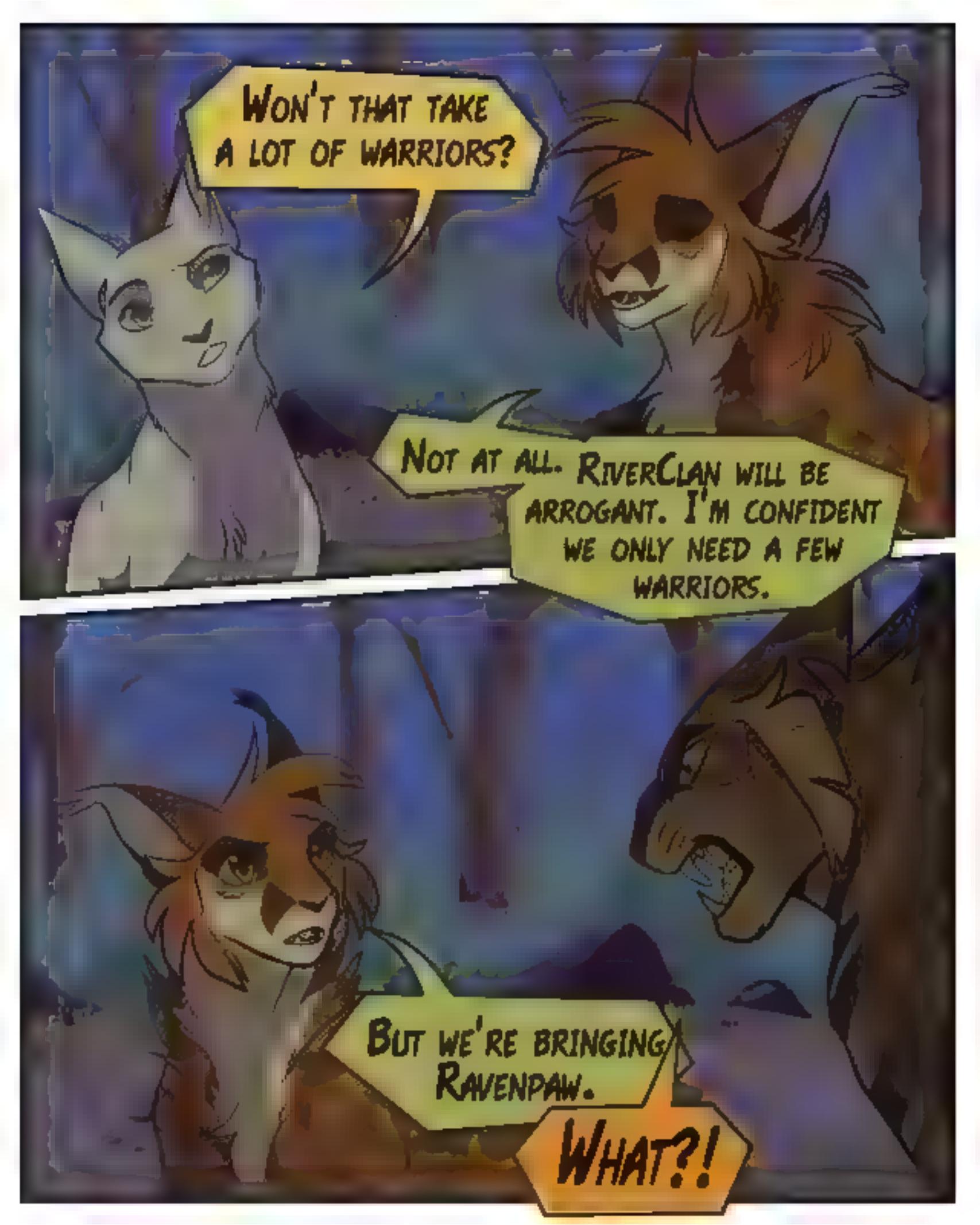
PATIENCE, TIGERCLAW,



WE NEED A
SOLID PLAN FIRST.



IF WE HAVE TWO SMALL
WAVES, PERHAPS WE CAN TAKE
THEM BY SURPRISE.

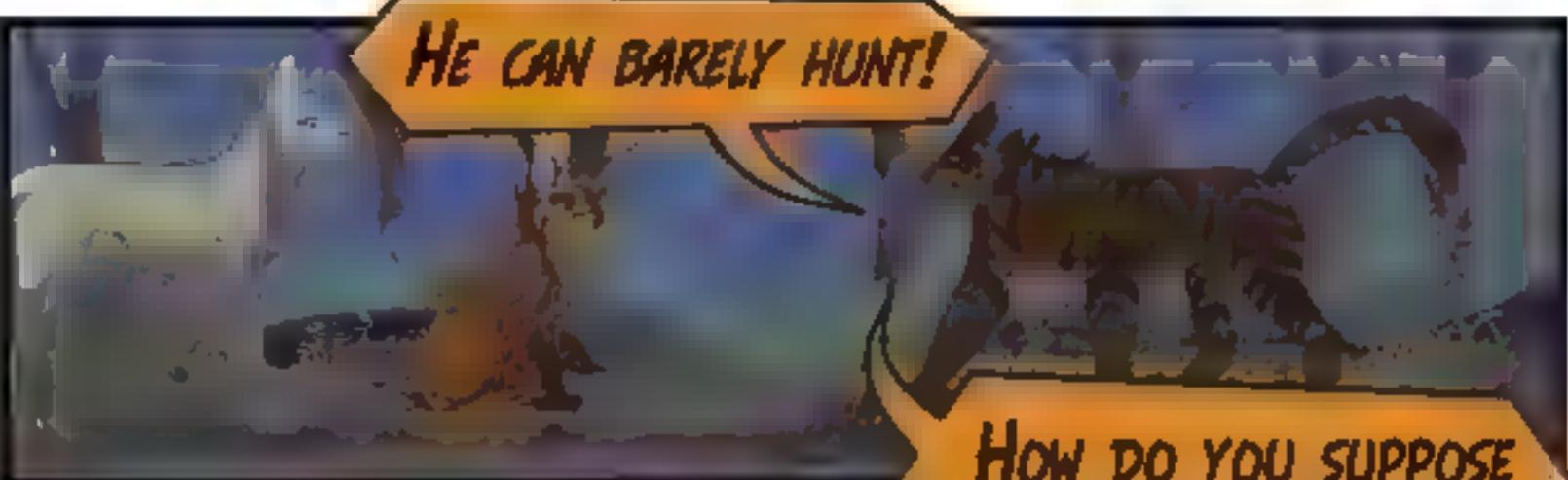


WON'T THAT TAKE
A LOT OF WARRIORS?

NOT AT ALL. RIVERCLAN WILL BE
ARROGANT. I'M CONFIDENT
WE ONLY NEED A FEW
WARRIORS.

BUT WE'RE BRINGING
RAVENPAW.

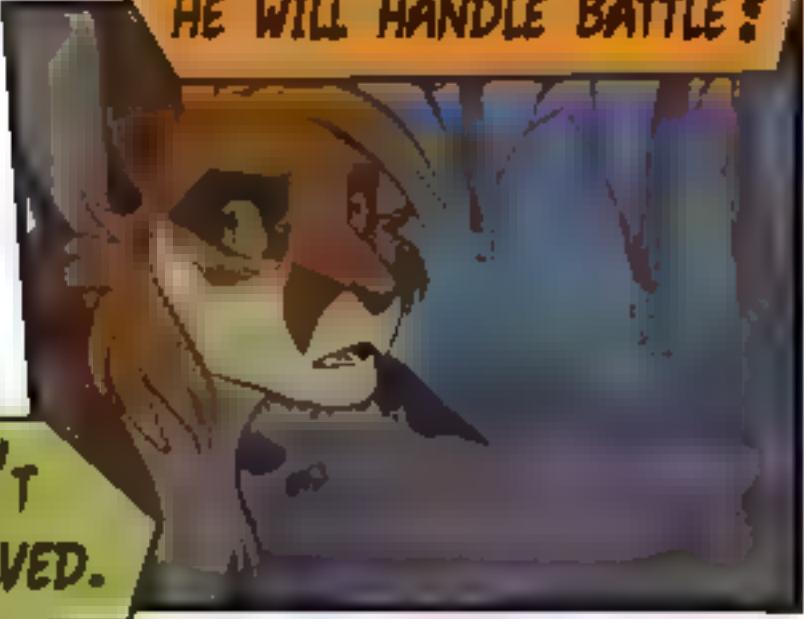
WHAT?!



HE CAN BARELY HUNT!



How do you suppose
he will handle battle?



I hope he won't
have to get involved.



BUT--



WHAT ABOUT US?

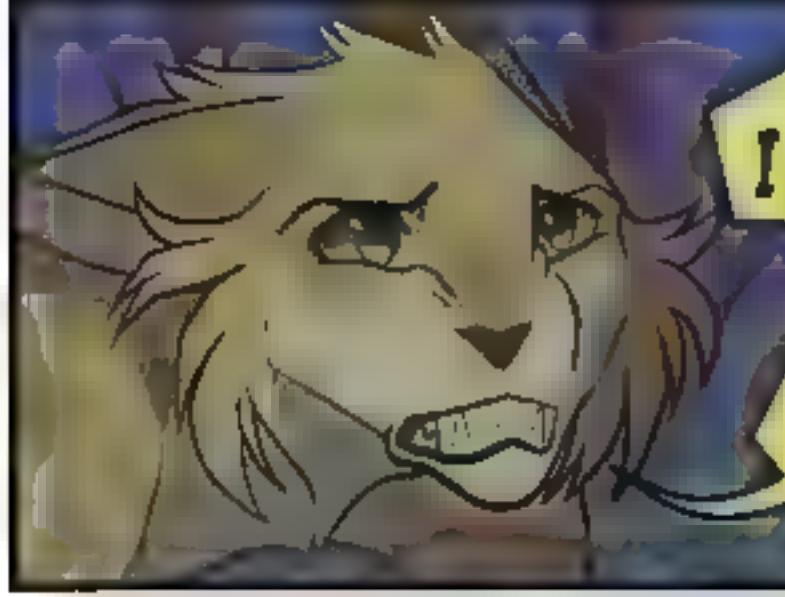


IT ISN'T
ABOUT THAT.

I NEED YOU
AT CAMP IN CASE--

IN CASE
WHAT?!





WHY ISN'T ANYTHING
I DO EVER ENOUGH FOR YOU?

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

HOW CAN I PROVE
MYSELF TO YOU?





YOU'VE BOTH DONE
MORE THAN ENOUGH.

YOU'VE BEEN
INCREDIBLE.

I'M SORRY FOR
EVER DOUBTING THAT.

YOU'VE MORE THAN
EARNED YOUR RIGHT TO THE
NEXT GATHERING.

I DON'T WANT TO
GO TO THE GATHERING!

I WANT TO HELP YOU!

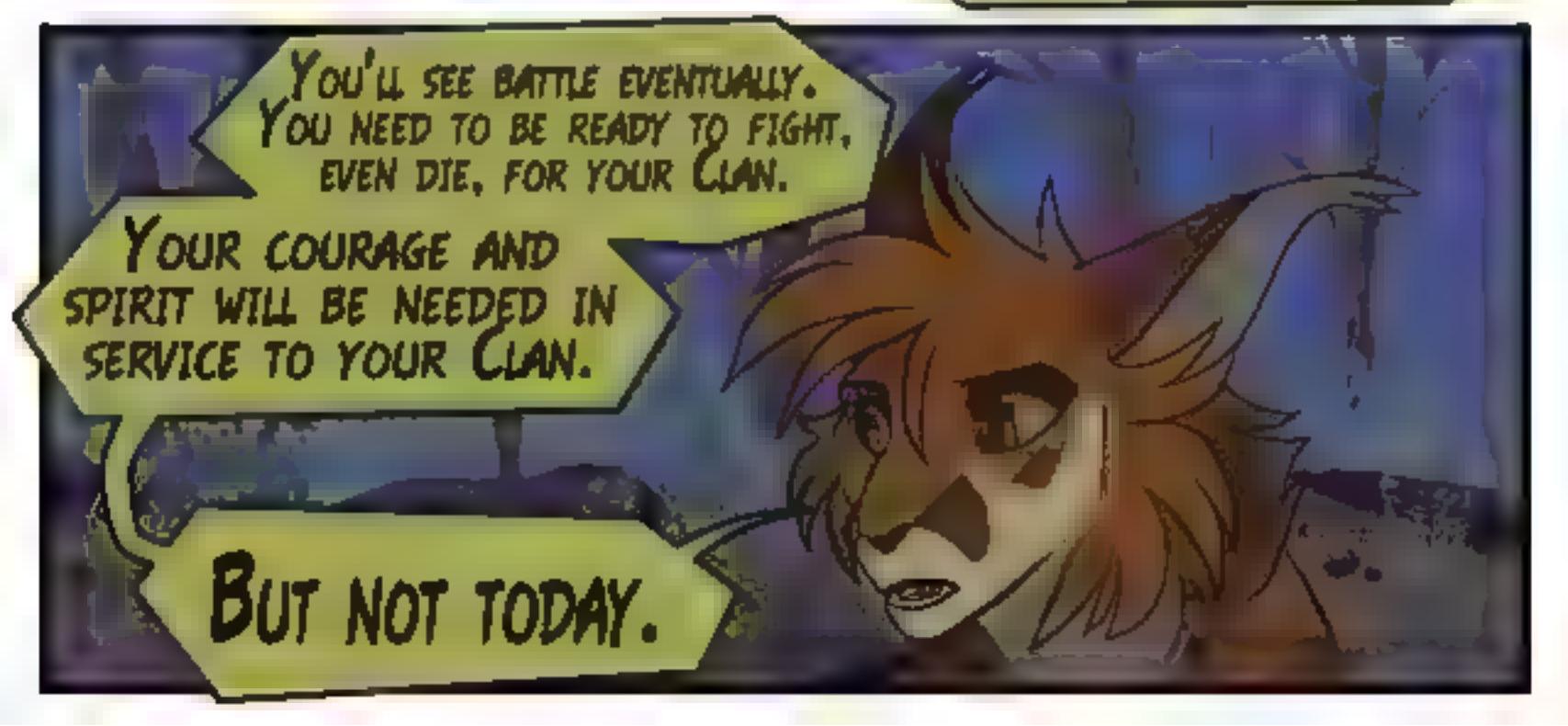


YOU'RE THE BEST APPRENTICES
A DEPUTY COULD ASK FOR.

BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DIE.



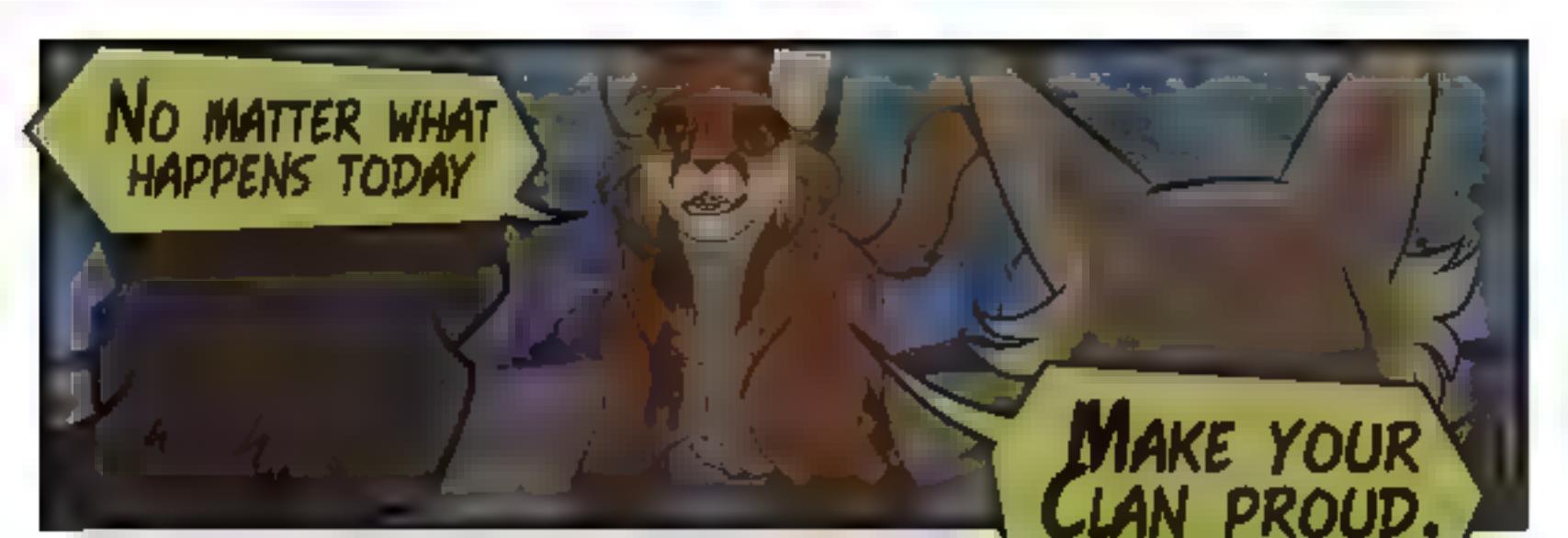
RAVENPAW IS COMING BECAUSE
HE'S THE FASTEST. HE WILL BE OUR
MESSENGER IF WE NEED IT.



YOU'LL SEE BATTLE EVENTUALLY.
YOU NEED TO BE READY TO FIGHT,
EVEN DIE, FOR YOUR CLAN.

YOUR COURAGE AND
SPIRIT WILL BE NEEDED IN
SERVICE TO YOUR CLAN.

BUT NOT TODAY.



NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS TODAY

MAKE YOUR
CLAN PROUD.





I HAVE TO PICK
UP THE KITTYPET WITH
LIONHEART.



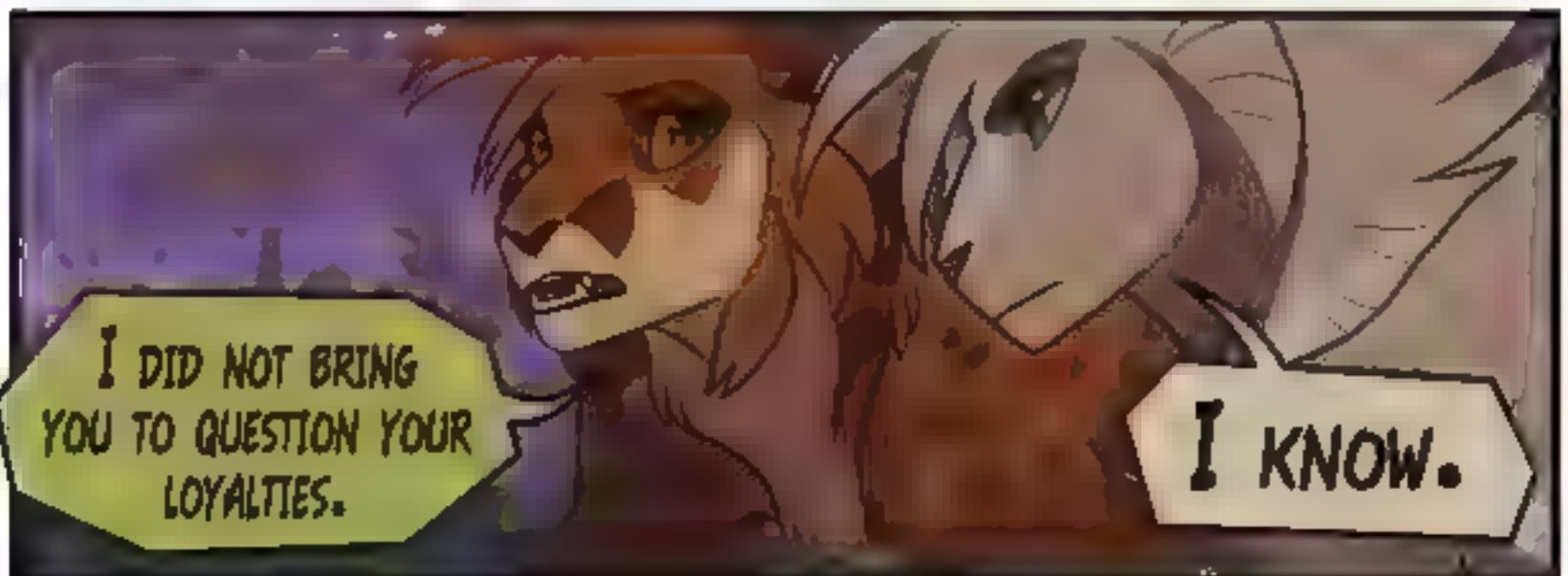
DON'T DIE
ON ME OUT THERE.

I DON'T INTEND TO.



I'LL SEE YOU
AFTER THE BATTLE.

STARCLAN LIGHT YOUR
PATH, REDTAIL.

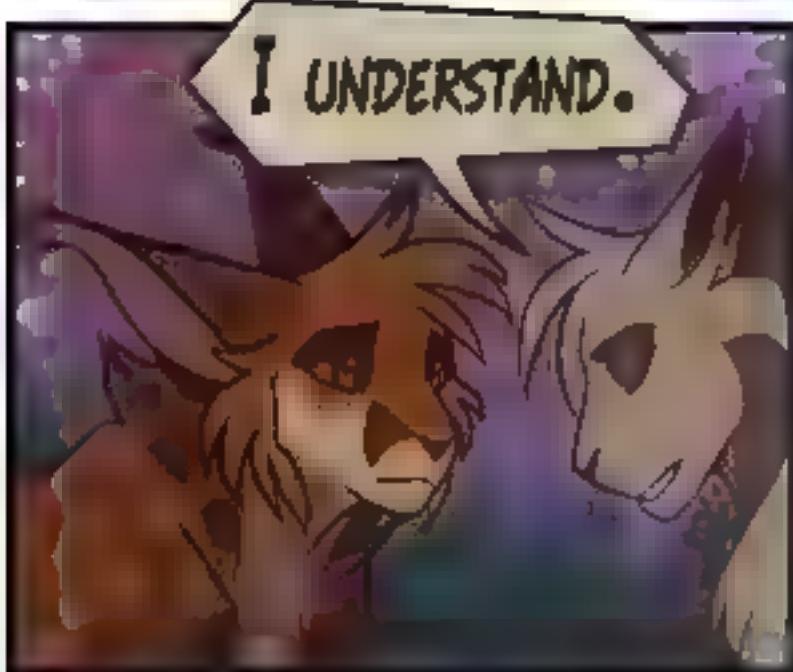




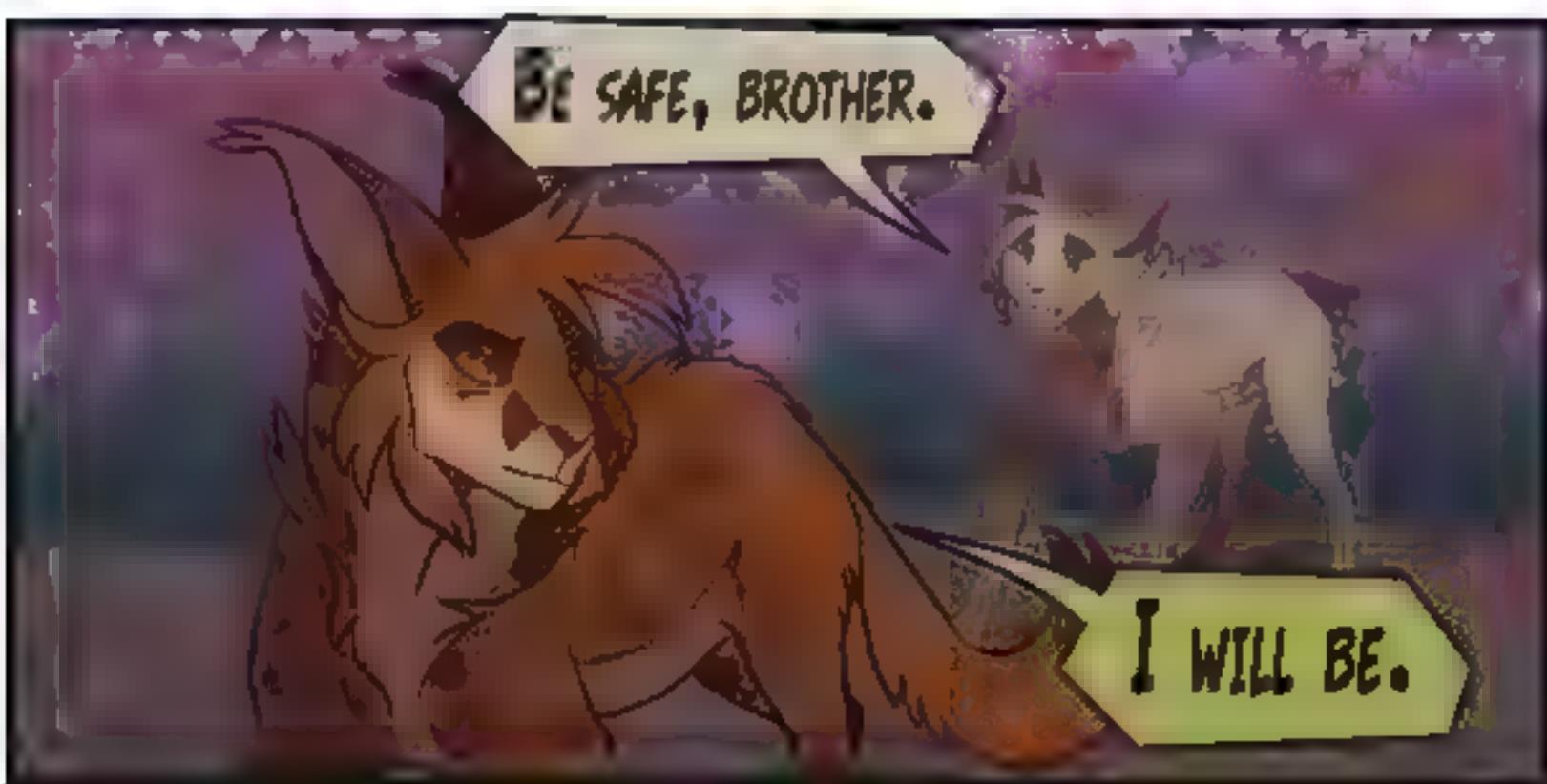
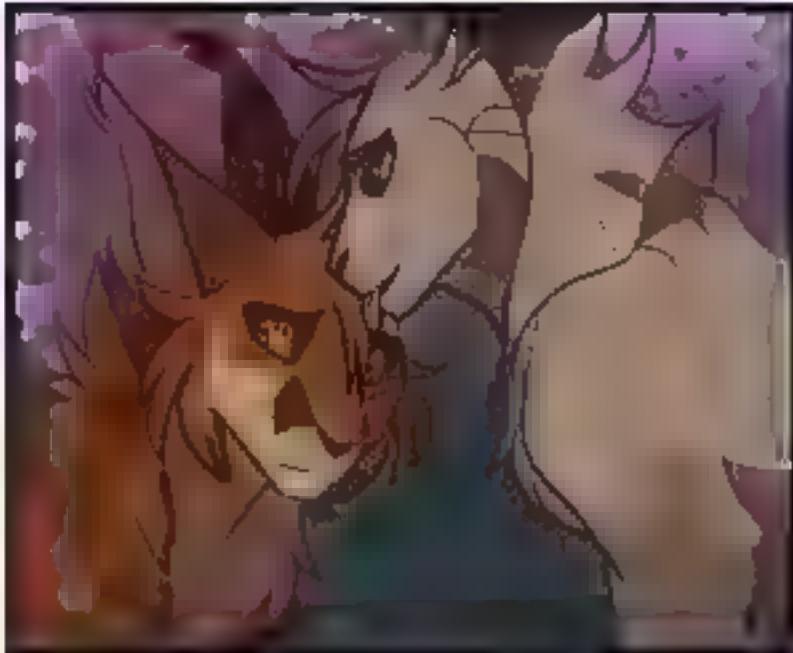
I NEED YOUR HELP.

YOU ARE THE BACK UP.

WE PROBABLY WON'T
NEED YOU, BUT IF WE DO...

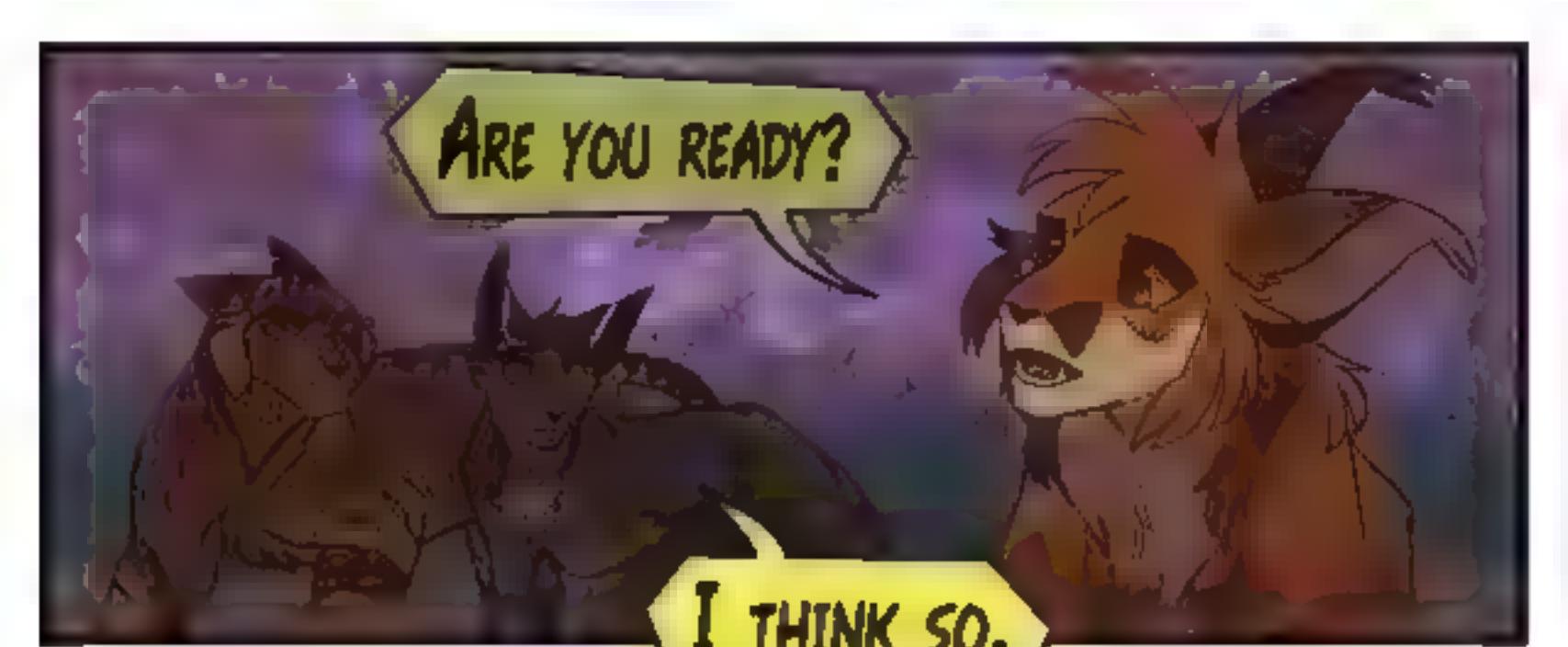


I UNDERSTAND.



BE SAFE, BROTHER.

I WILL BE.



ARE YOU READY?



I THINK SO.



THEN LET'S GO.



THIS IS YOUR
LAST CHANCE.



THE NEXT RIVERCLAN
WARRIOR FOUND ON THUNDERCLAN
TERRITORY WILL BE KILLED.

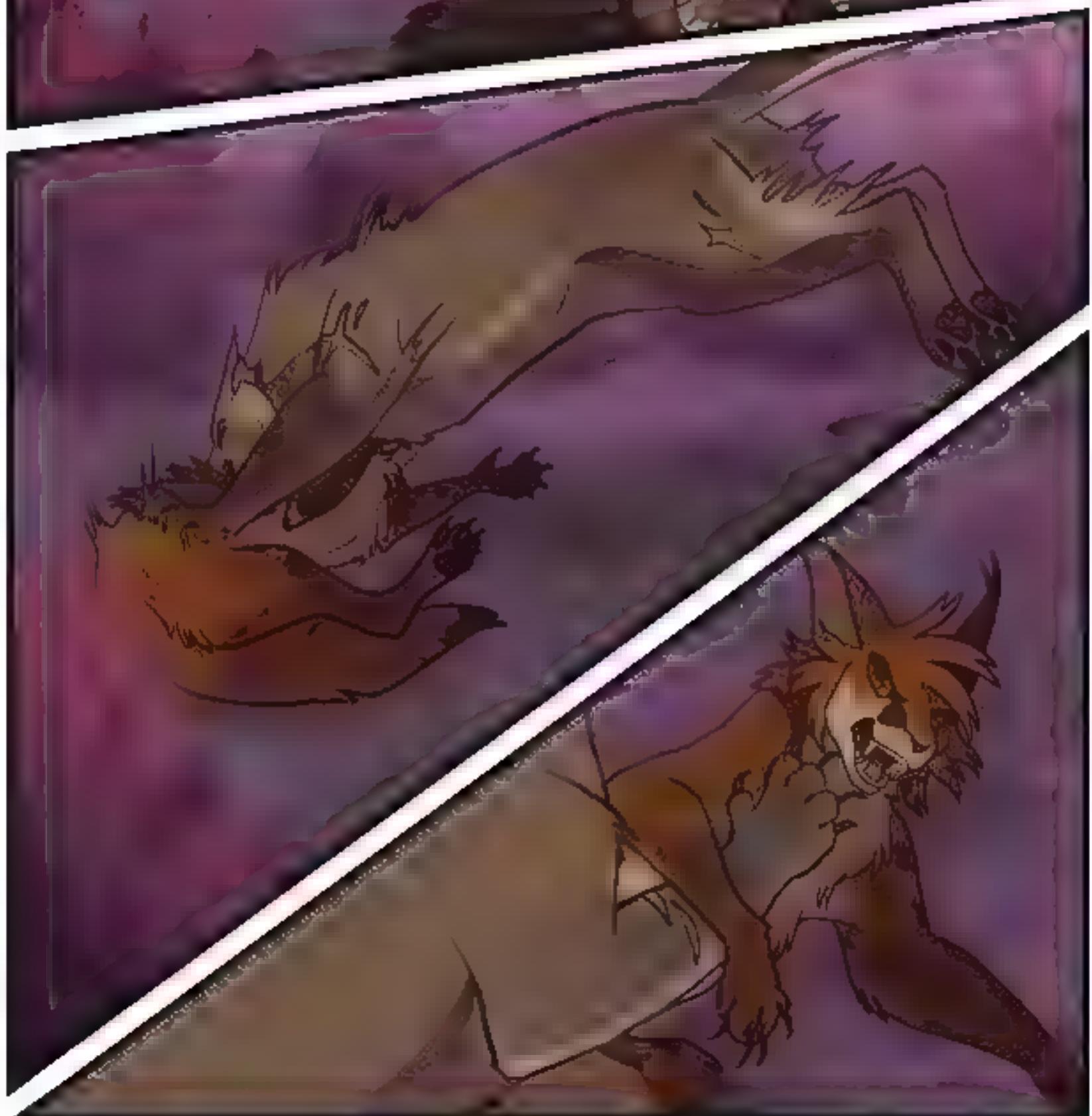


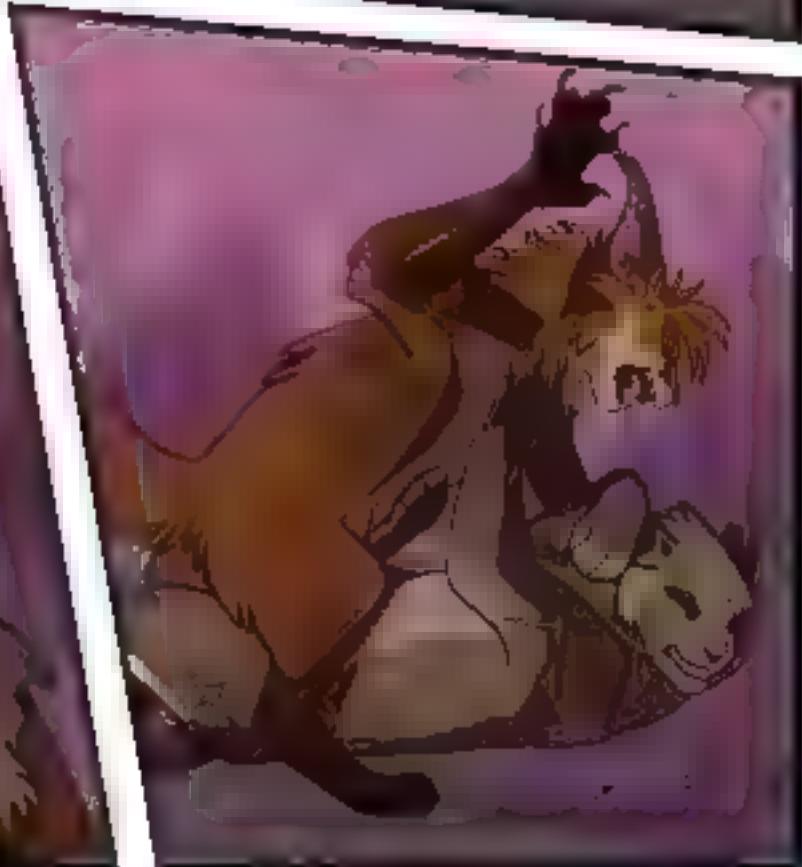
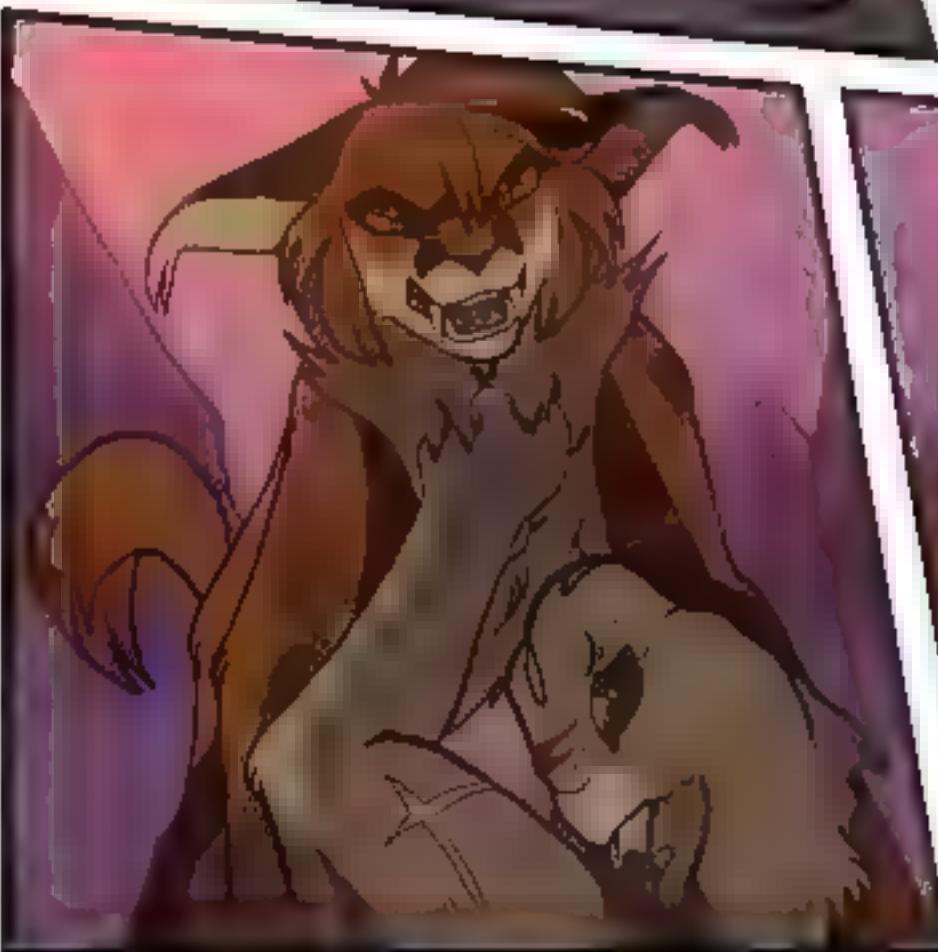
WILL YOU SURRENDER
SUNNINGROCKS WILLINGLY?

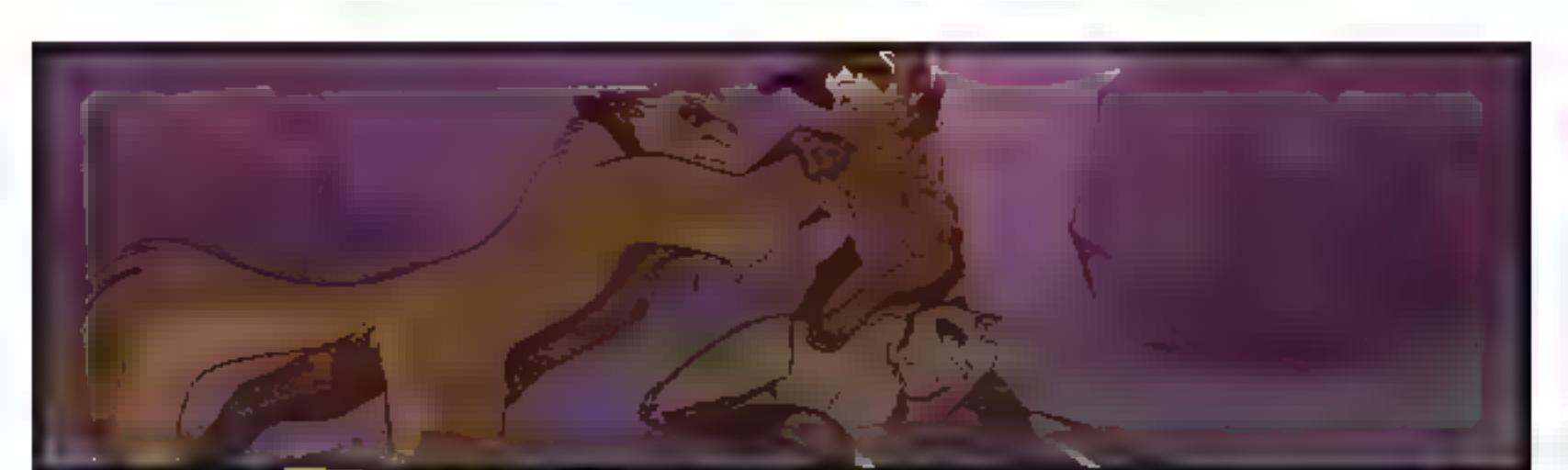


NEVER.





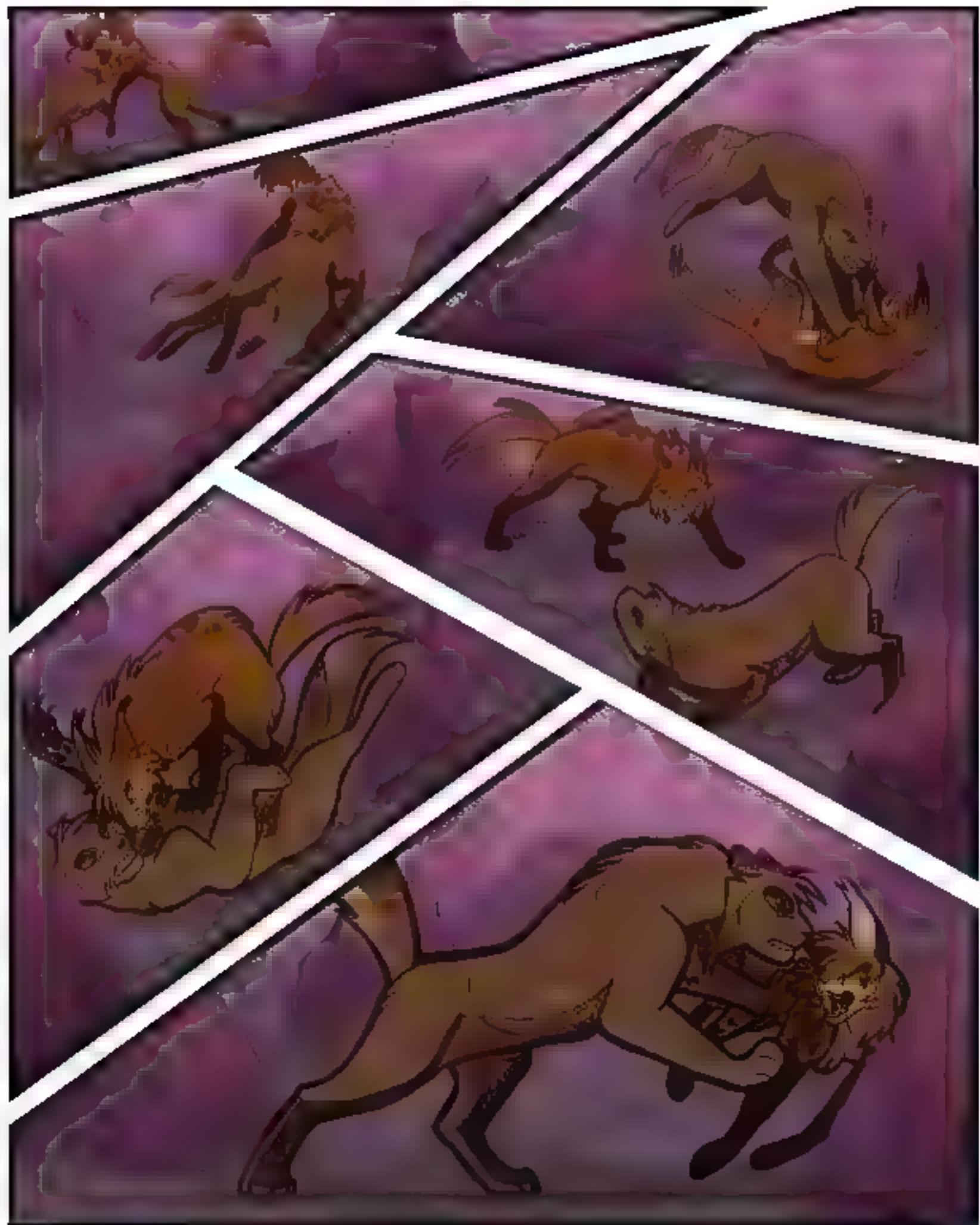


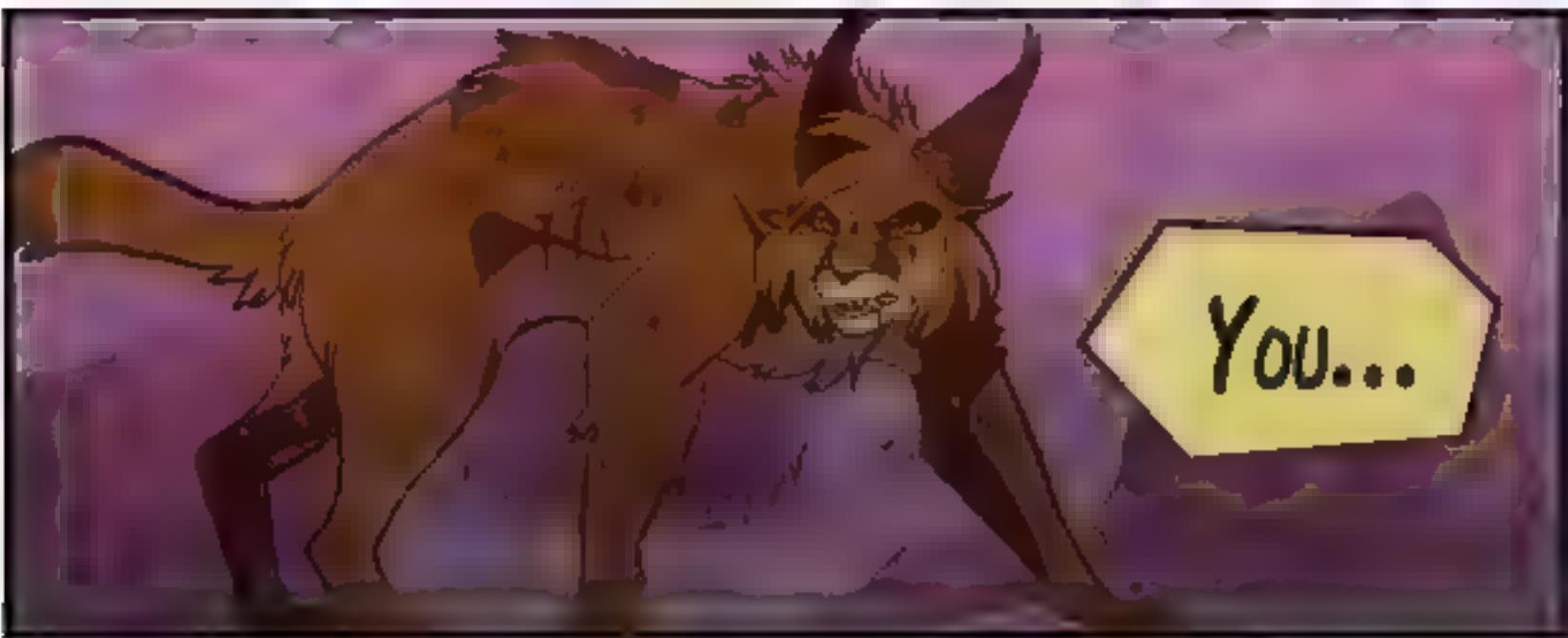


RUN, STONEFUR.



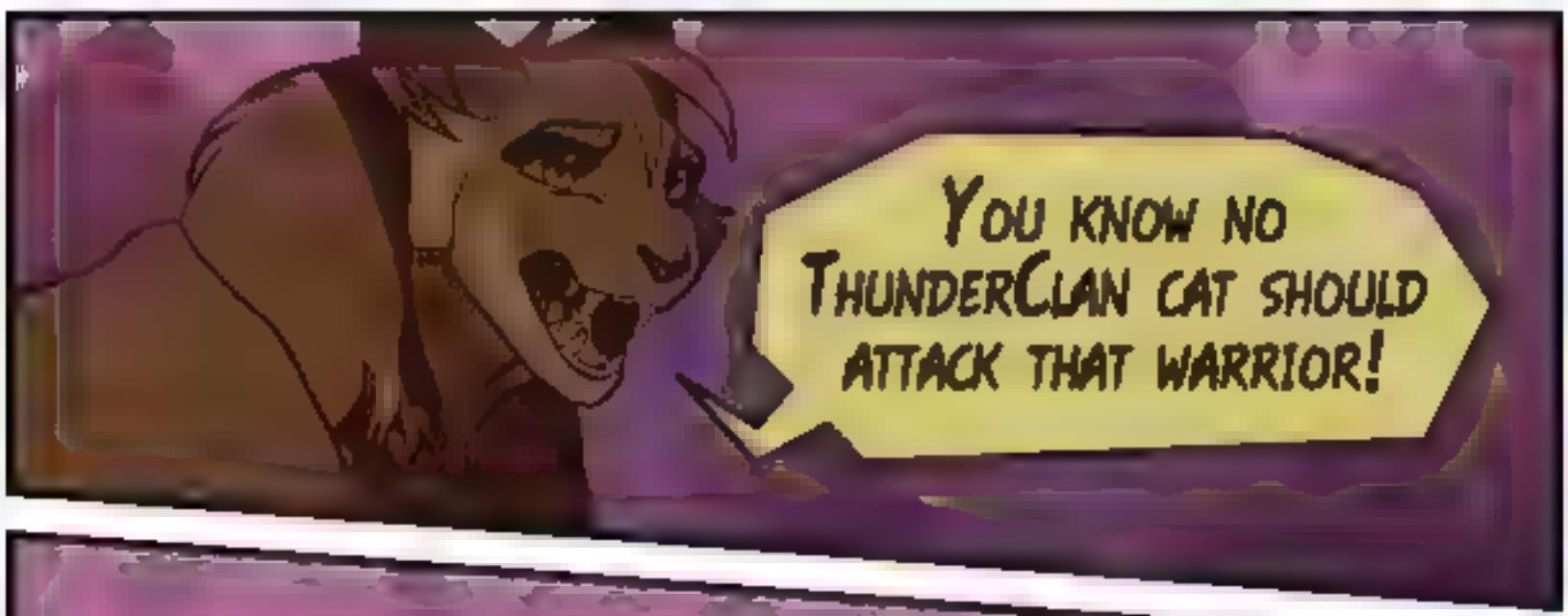
I'LL HANDLE
THIS.







YOU KNOW...



YOU KNOW NO
THUNDERCLAN CAT SHOULD
ATTACK THAT WARRIOR!

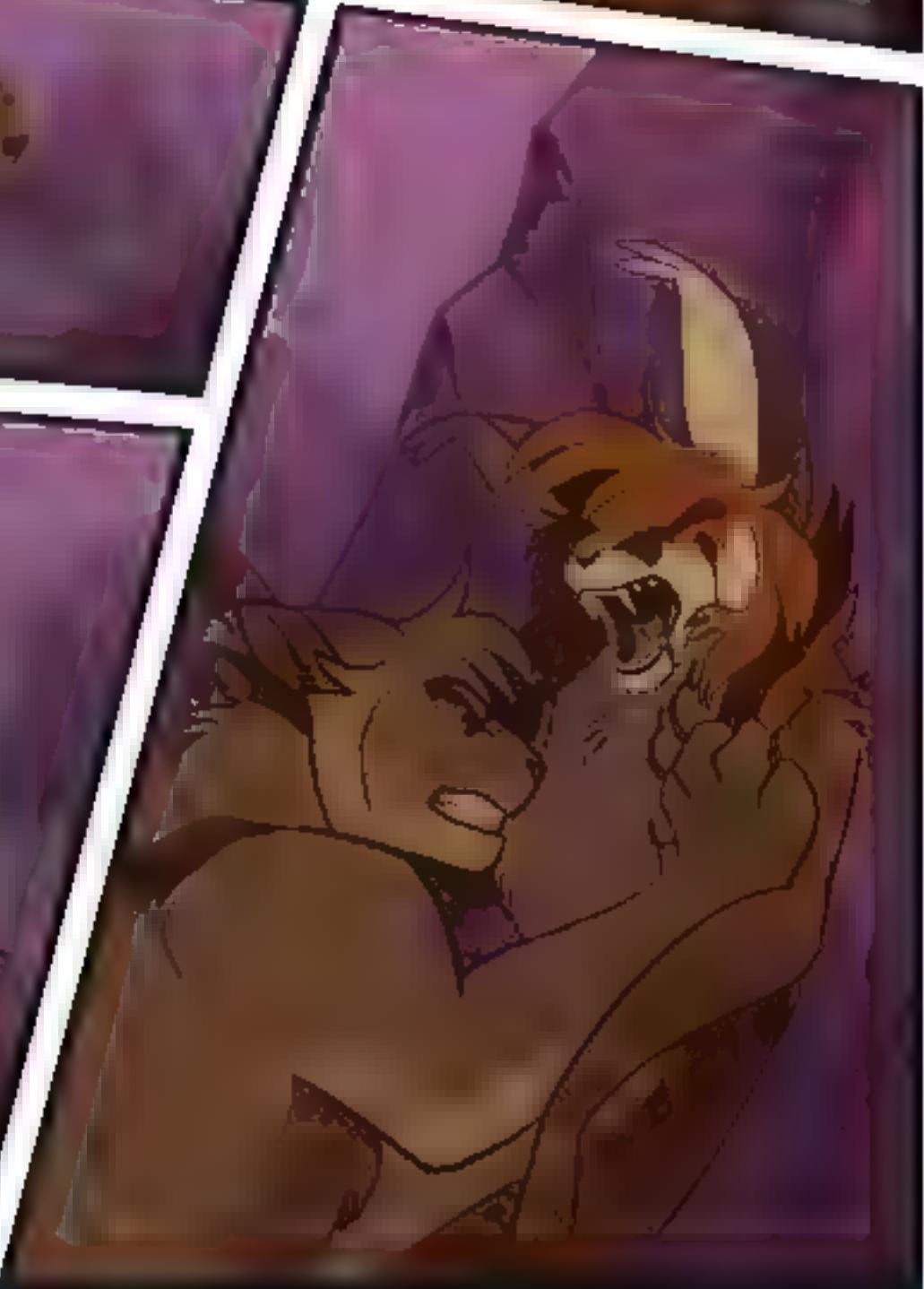
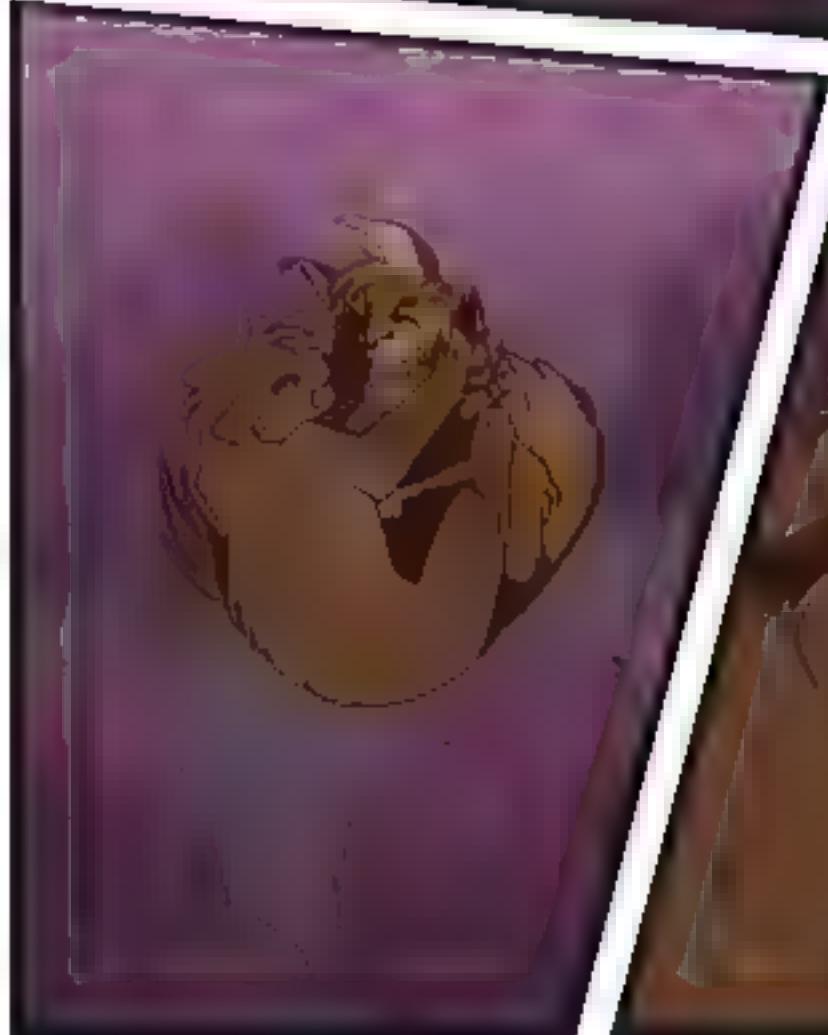
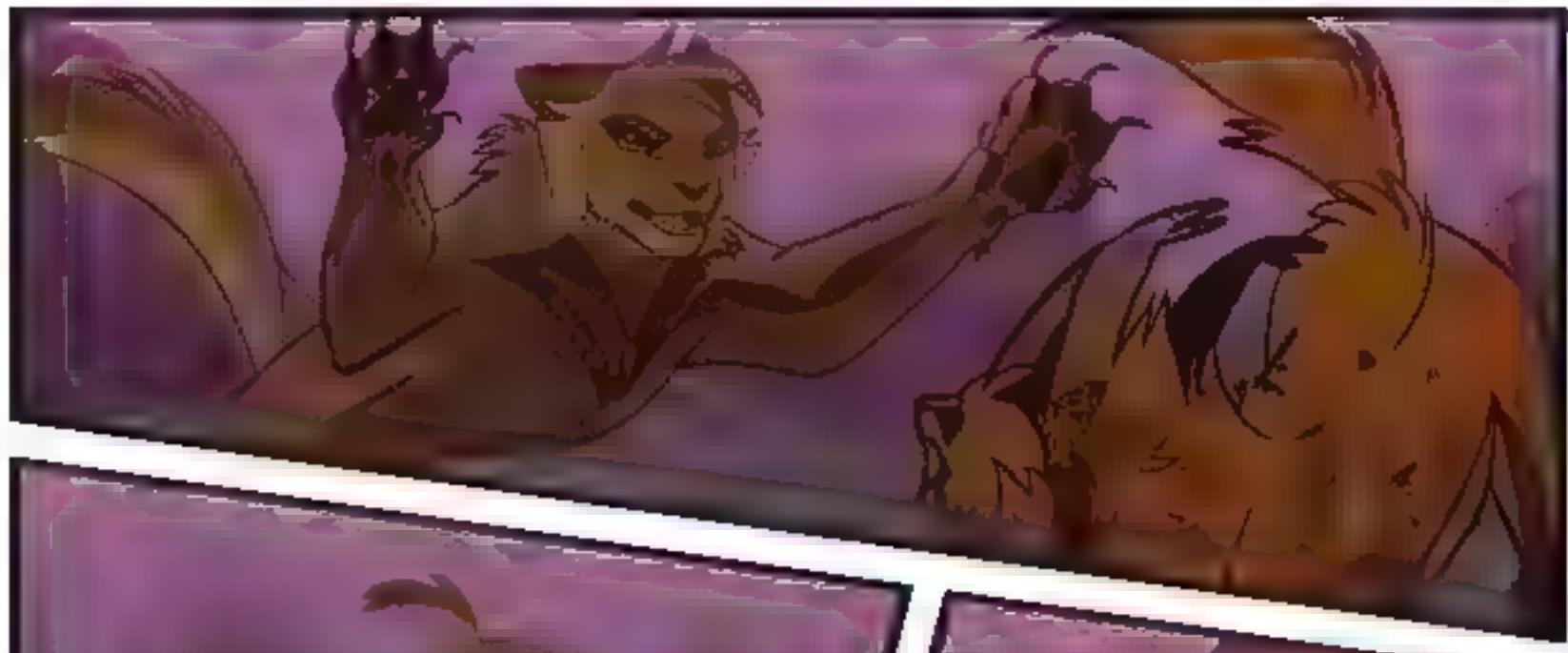


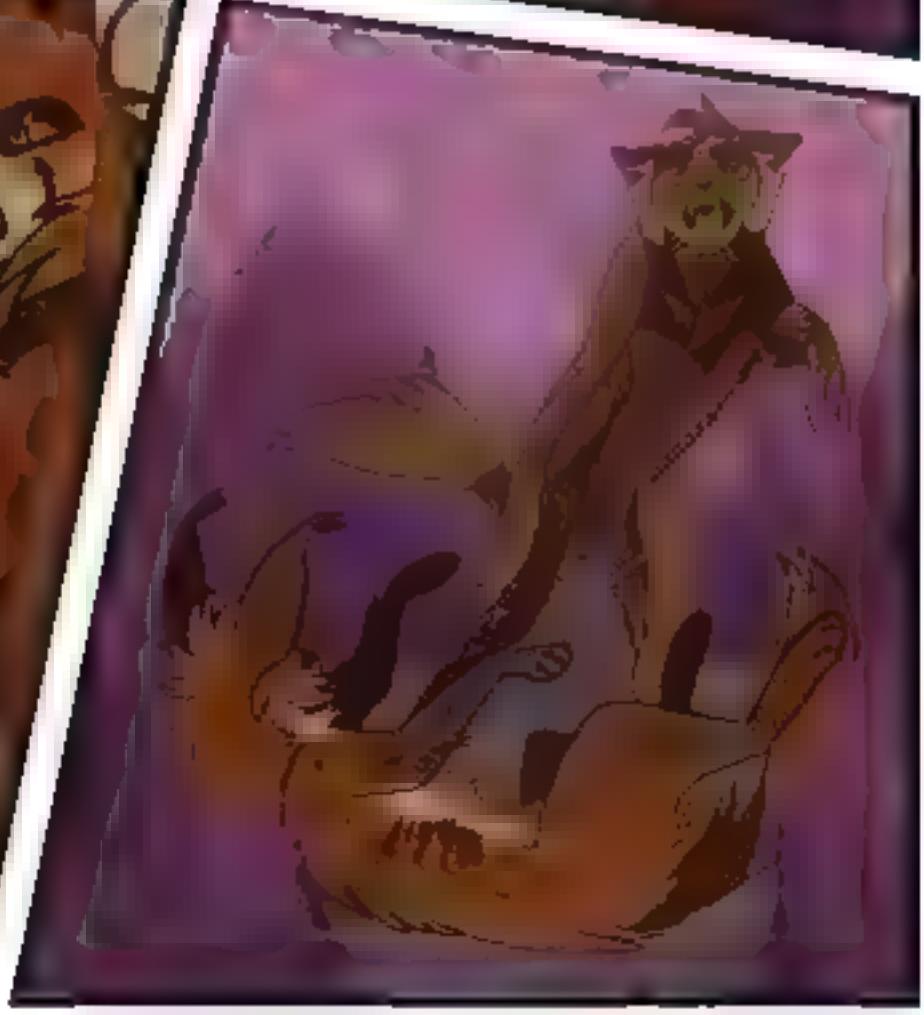
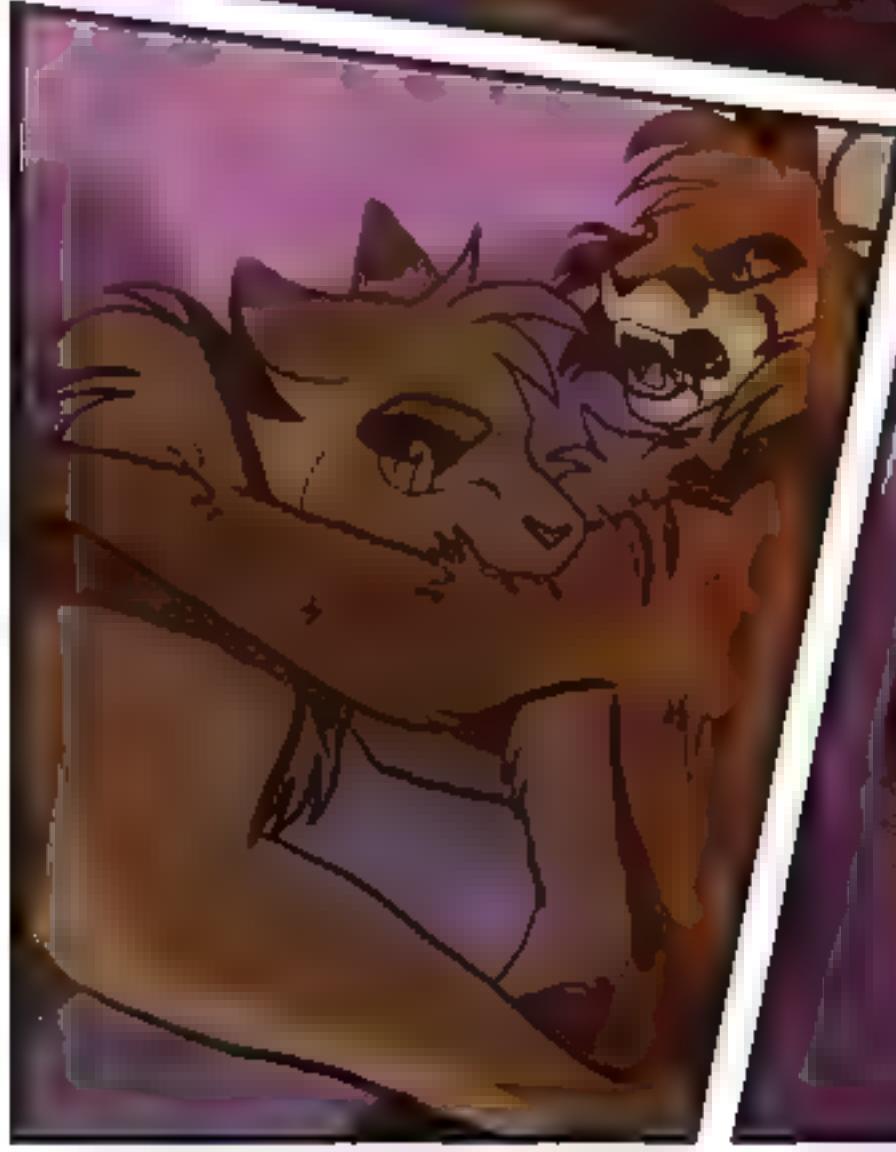
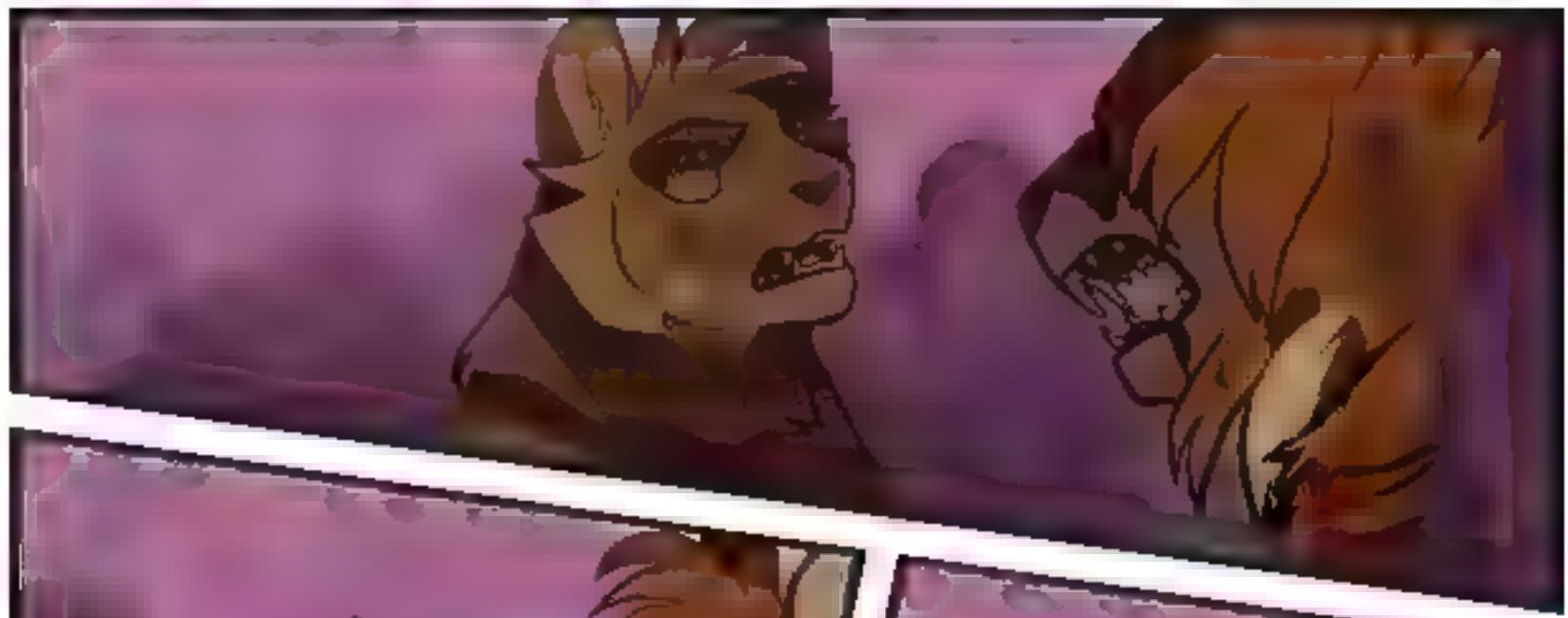
How COULD YOU?!



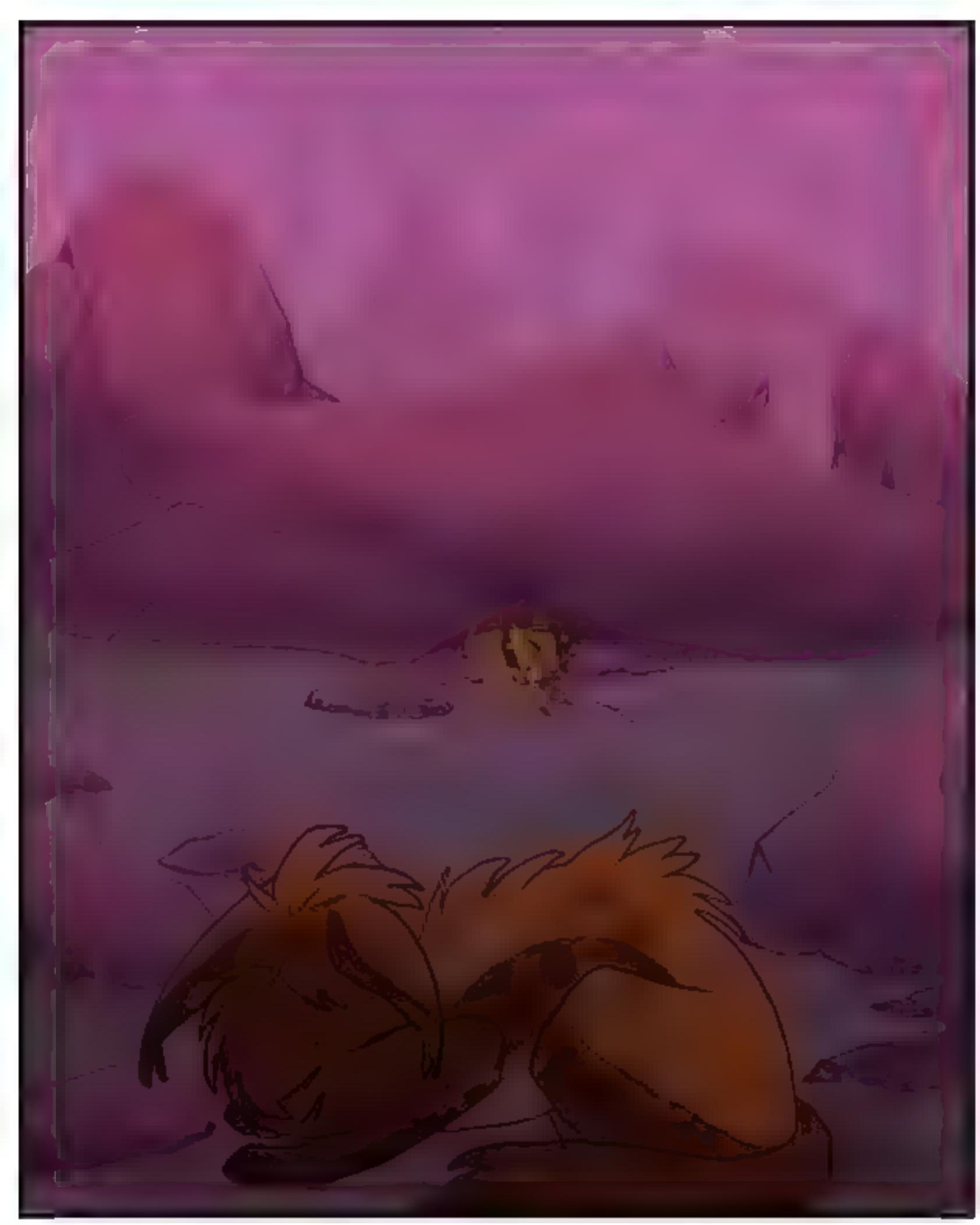
I HAVE TO PROTECT
MY CLAN, OAKHEART.
I CAN'T MAKE AN
EXCEPTION FOR YOUR
SAKE.

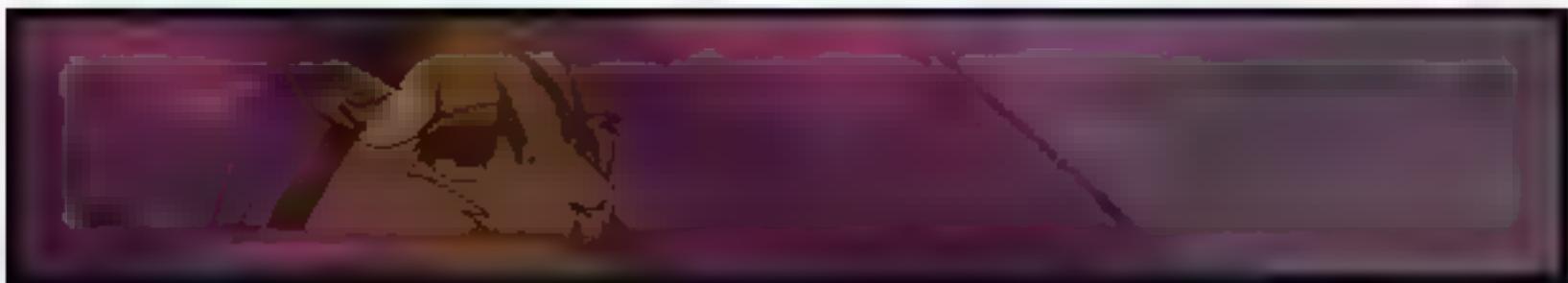
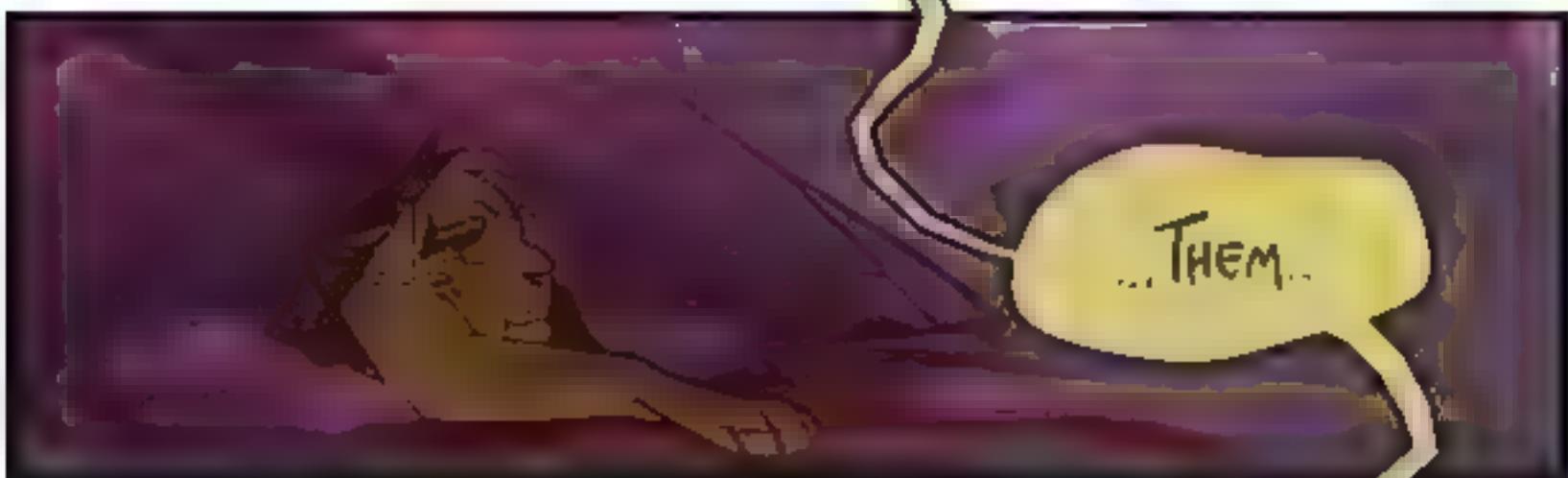


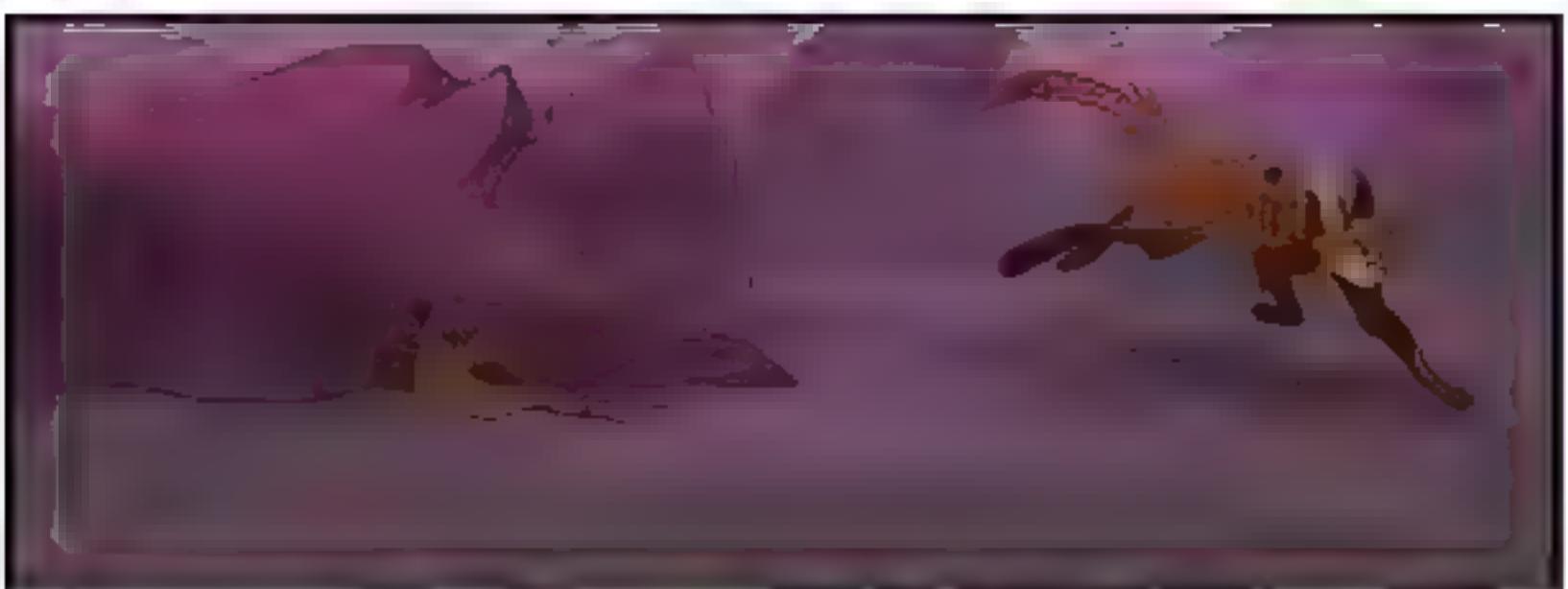






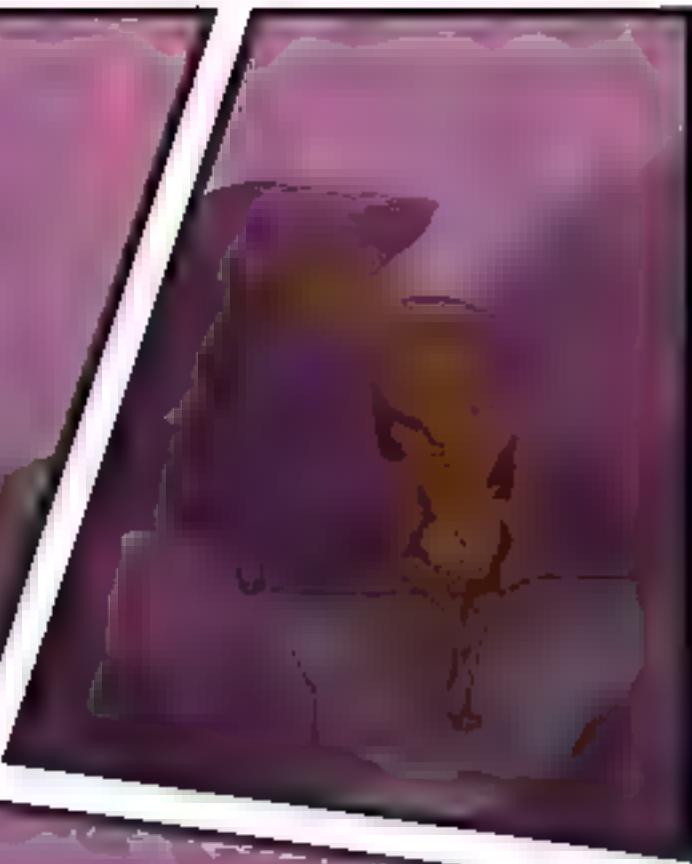




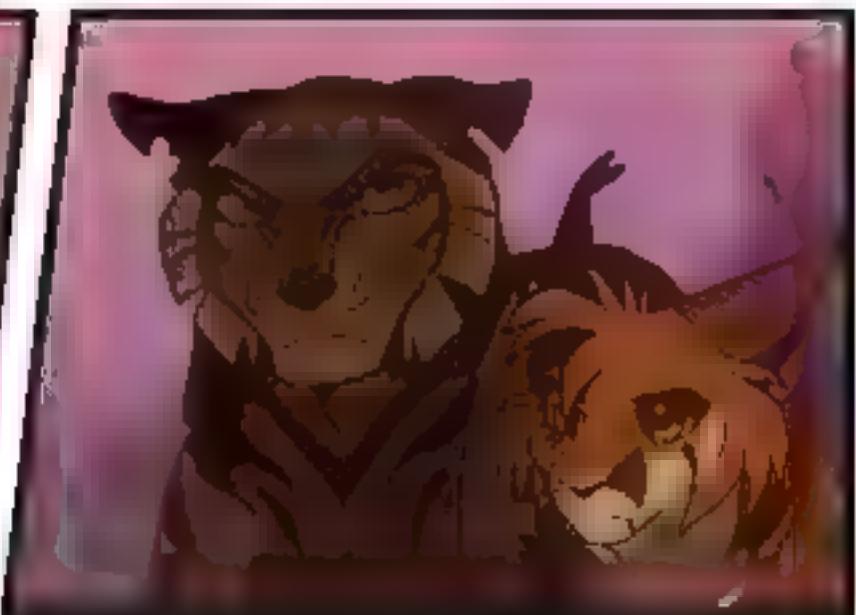




OAKHEART
IS DEAD!











**GREAT JOB,
RAVENPAW. TELL WILLOWPELT
WE WON'T BE NEEDING
HER, THEN GO SEE
SPOTTEDLEAF.**



**THAT WENT
VERY WELL!**

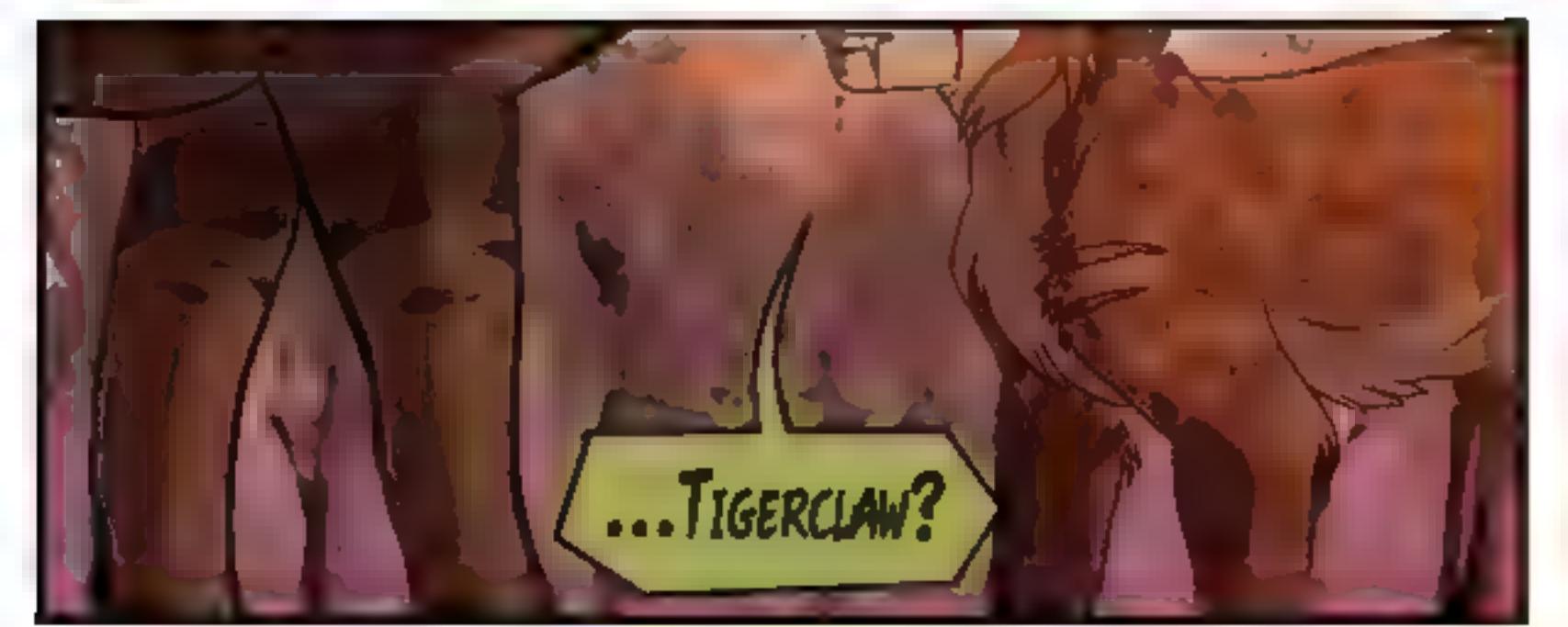
**WE DIDN'T EVEN
NEED REINFORCEMENTS.**



WE SHOULD
CELEBRATE!



THE APPRENTICES COULD
USE IT! THEY'LL BE SO
RELIEVED.



...TIGERCLAW?



I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T LET
YOU GO.



LET ME GO?

DON'T BE
STILLY.



TIGERCLAW?





I MUST SAVE THIS CLAN.



I MUST BECOME
LEADER AND GUIDE US
ON THE RIGHT PATH.



AND FOR THAT
YOU MUST DIE.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
I NEVER HAVE.

THIS WAS MEANT TO BE.
ALL ALONG.

I'VE TRIED TO
DENY IT.
ALL MY
LIFE.

I KNOW WHAT
I MUST BE.



TIGERCLAW...

I DON'T...



YOU'RE A
STRONG WARRIOR!

YOU'VE INSPIRED
SO MANY IN THE CLAN.

YOU CHOOSE WHO
YOU ARE!

NO ONE ELSE
CAN DECIDE THAT!



THIS IS MY
CHOICE, REDTAIL.

NOW FOR YOU
TO MAKE YOURS.



Go.



TAKE SANDPAW.

AND LEAVE.





I'LL BRING HER OUT TO YOU.

SHE'S A STRONG CAT.

YOU CAN LIVE OUT YOUR LIVES FAR AWAY FROM HERE.

OUT OF MY WAY.

...

REDTAIL.

IF YOU STAY

IF YOU FIGHT

I CANNOT GUARANTEE HER SAFETY.

...YOU WOULDN'T.



I WON'T KILL HER.

As I said, she
is a strong cat, with
the kind of courage and
spirit this Clan needs.



BUT I'LL NOT
PROTECT HER, EITHER.
AND THERE ARE
DANGEROUS TIMES
AHEAD.



A LONE APPRENTICE
IS A DEAD APPRENTICE.



PLEASE CHOOSE
WISELY.





...WHAT IF BLUESTAR
APPOINTS SOMEONE ELSE
DEPUTY?



TIGERCLAW.

WHAT ABOUT
BLUESTAR?



...YOU CAN'T!

I DON'T
WANT TO--

THEN DON'T!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU FEEL YOU HAVE
TO DO THIS.



STARCLAN
HAVE DECIDED
MY FATE.



THEY'VE
DETERMINED--



THEN STARCLAN
ARE WRONG!





TIGERCLAW

I'M NOT SAYING
THIS FOR MY SAKE.
BUT YOU'RE
BETTER THAN THIS.



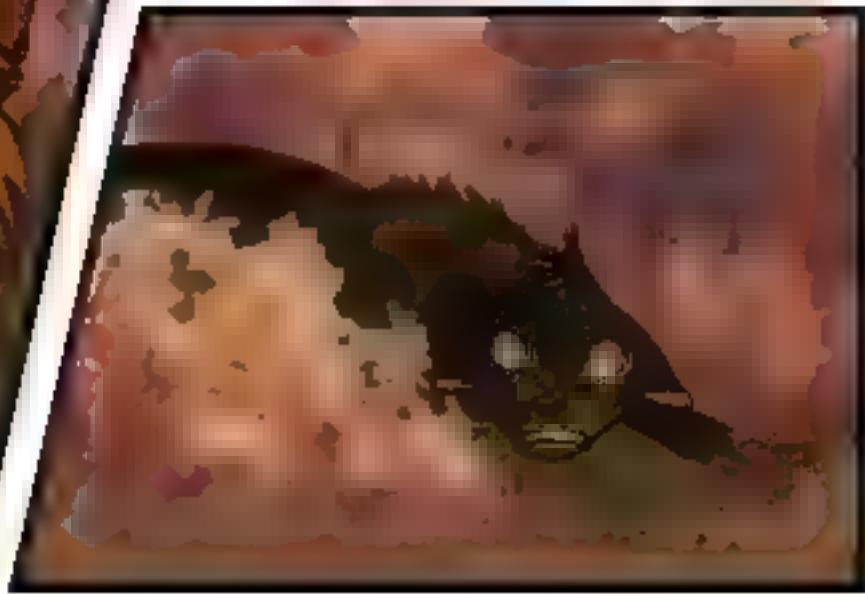
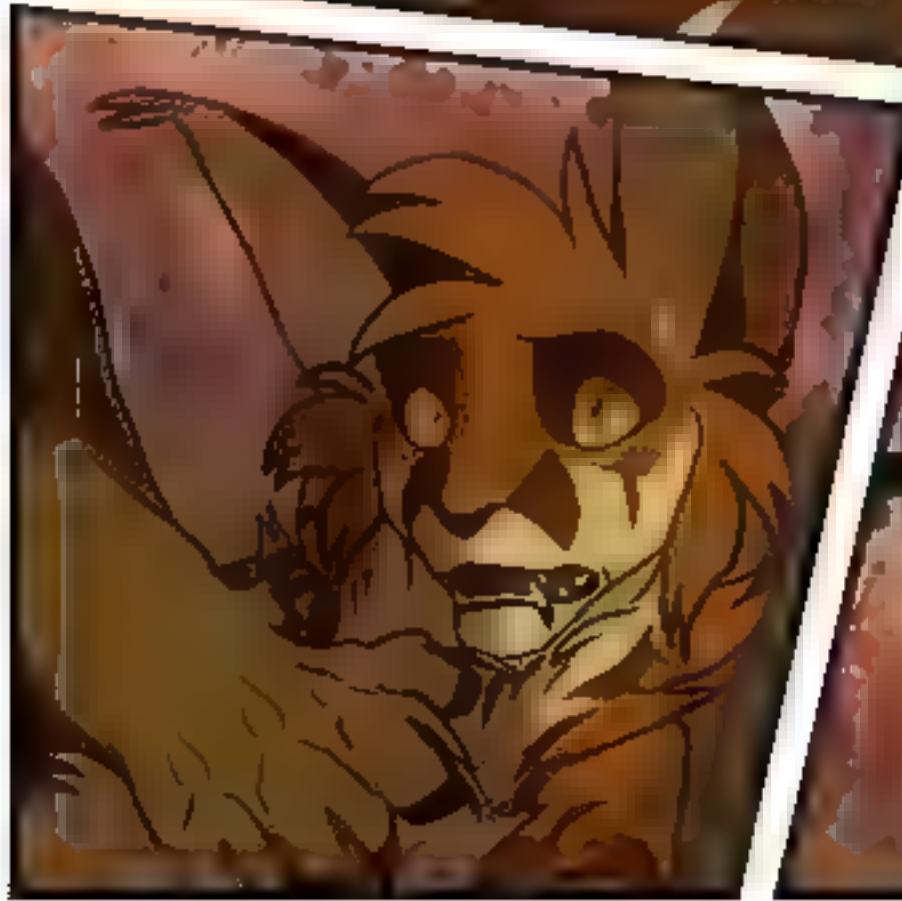
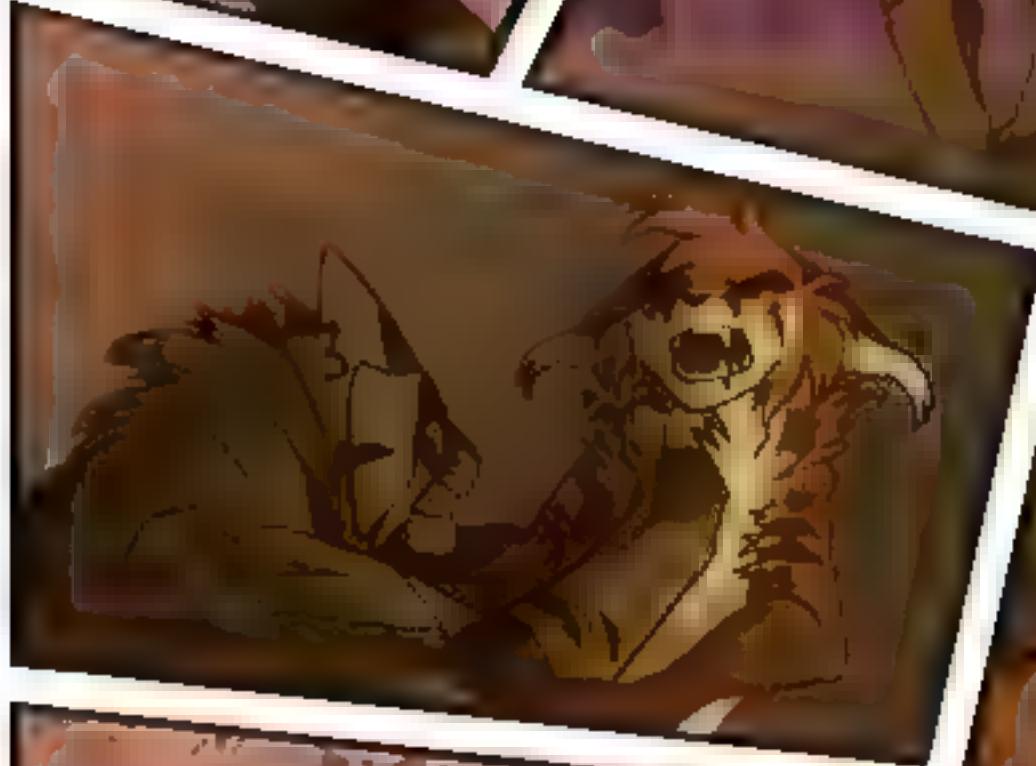
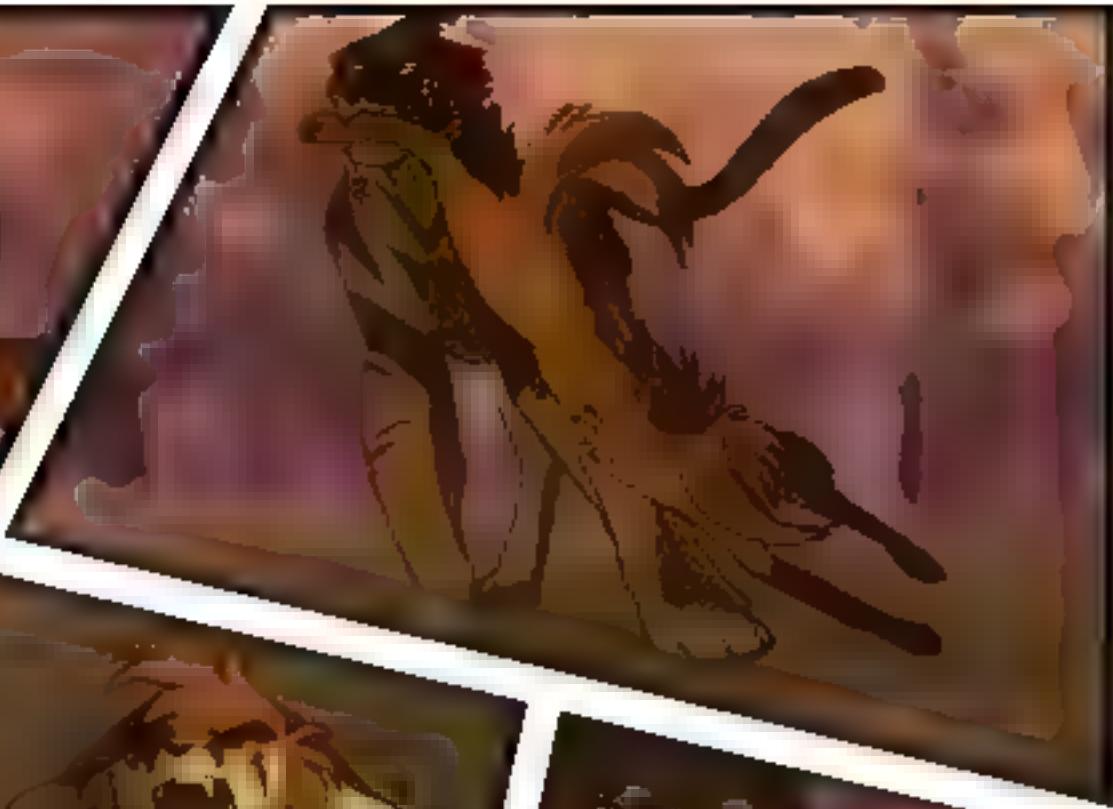
THIS IS YOUR
LAST CHANCE.

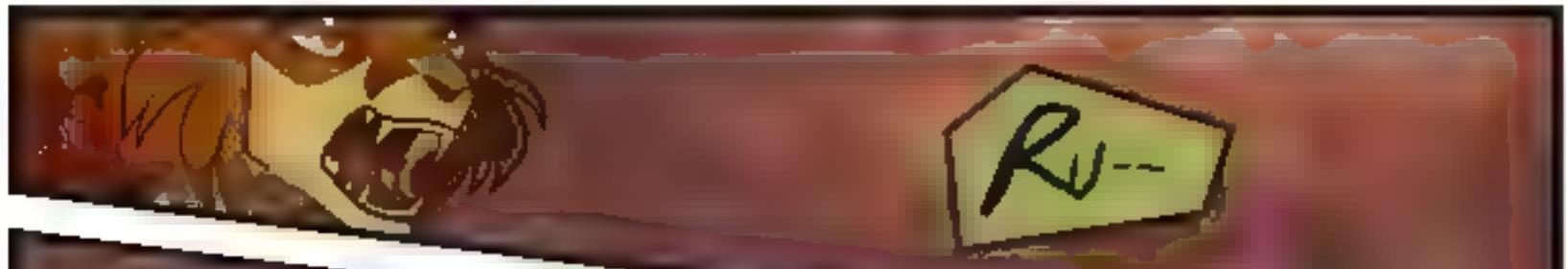
I'VE MADE MY
CHOICE.

IF YOU STAY,
YOU WILL DIE.

WHAT WILL YOURS BE?













RAVENPAW, WHAT--



REDTAIL IS DEAD!



WE MET FIVE RIVERCLAN
WARRIOR AT SUNNINGROCKS.

OAKHEART WAS AMONG THEM.



OAK... OAKHEART WOULD
NOT BACK DOWN.

...HE'S JOKING, RIGHT?

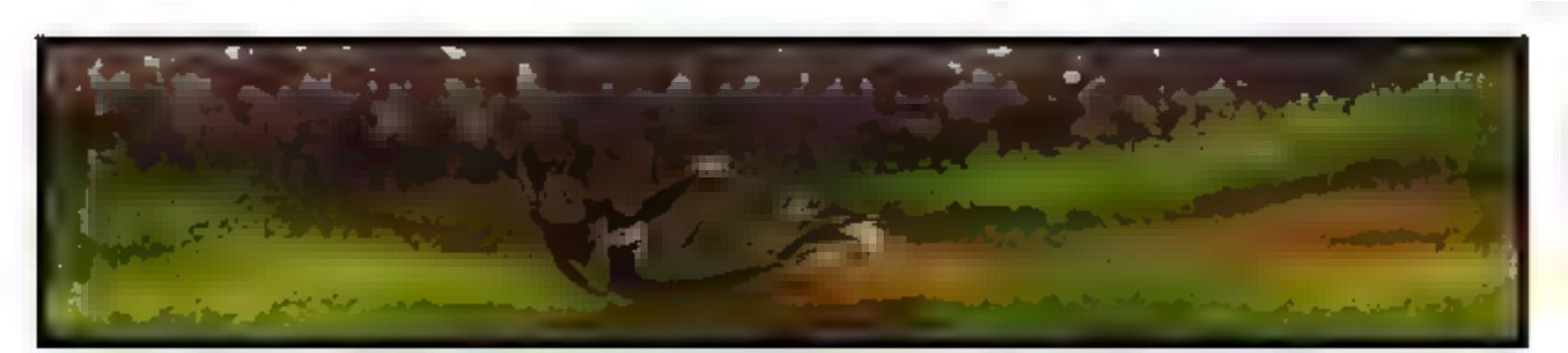
THE FIGHTING WAS
VICIOUS.



I SAW OAKHEART
HAD REDTAIL PINNED
TO THE GROUND.

BUT THEN REDTAIL...

...WHITESTORM?



SPOTTEDLEAF?



RAVENPAW
NEEDS ME.

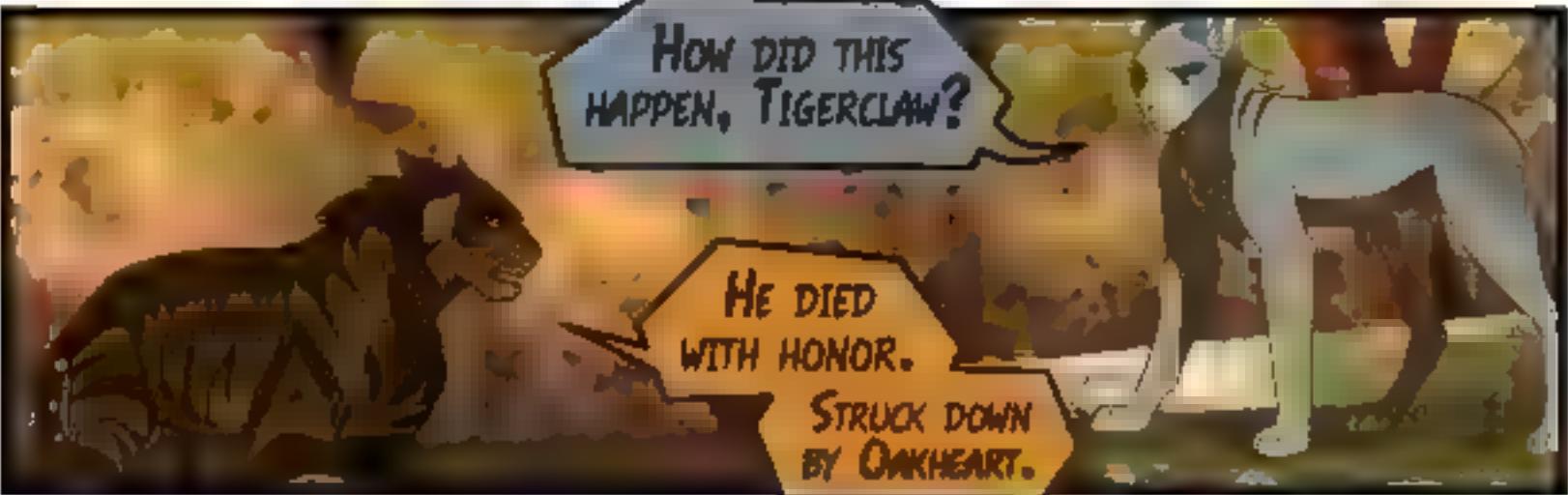


REGARDLESS OF
MY BROTHER'S FATE...



MY WORK CONTINUES.





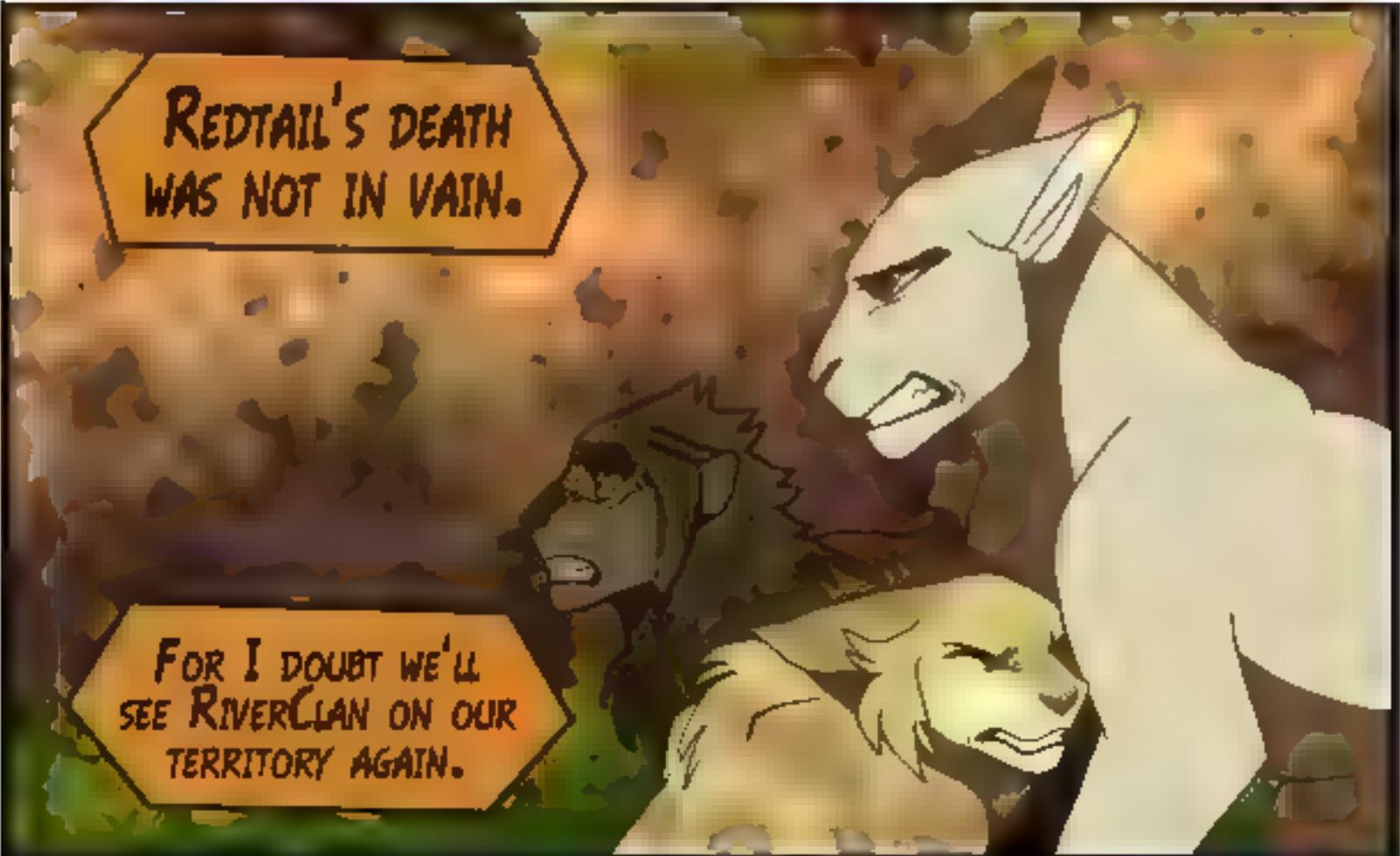
HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN, TIGERCLAW?

HE DIED
WITH HONOR.
STRUCK DOWN
BY OAKHEART.



I COULDN'T SAVE HIM.

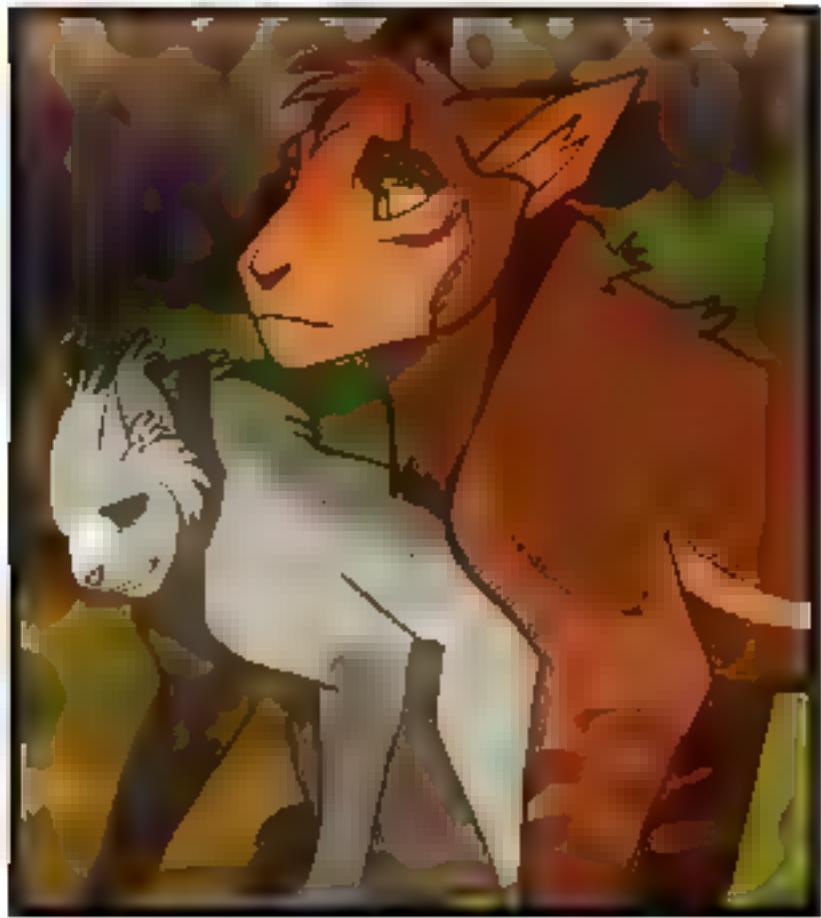
BUT I MANAGED TO
TAKE OAKHEART'S LIFE WHILE
HE WAS STILL GLOATING OVER
HIS VICTORY.

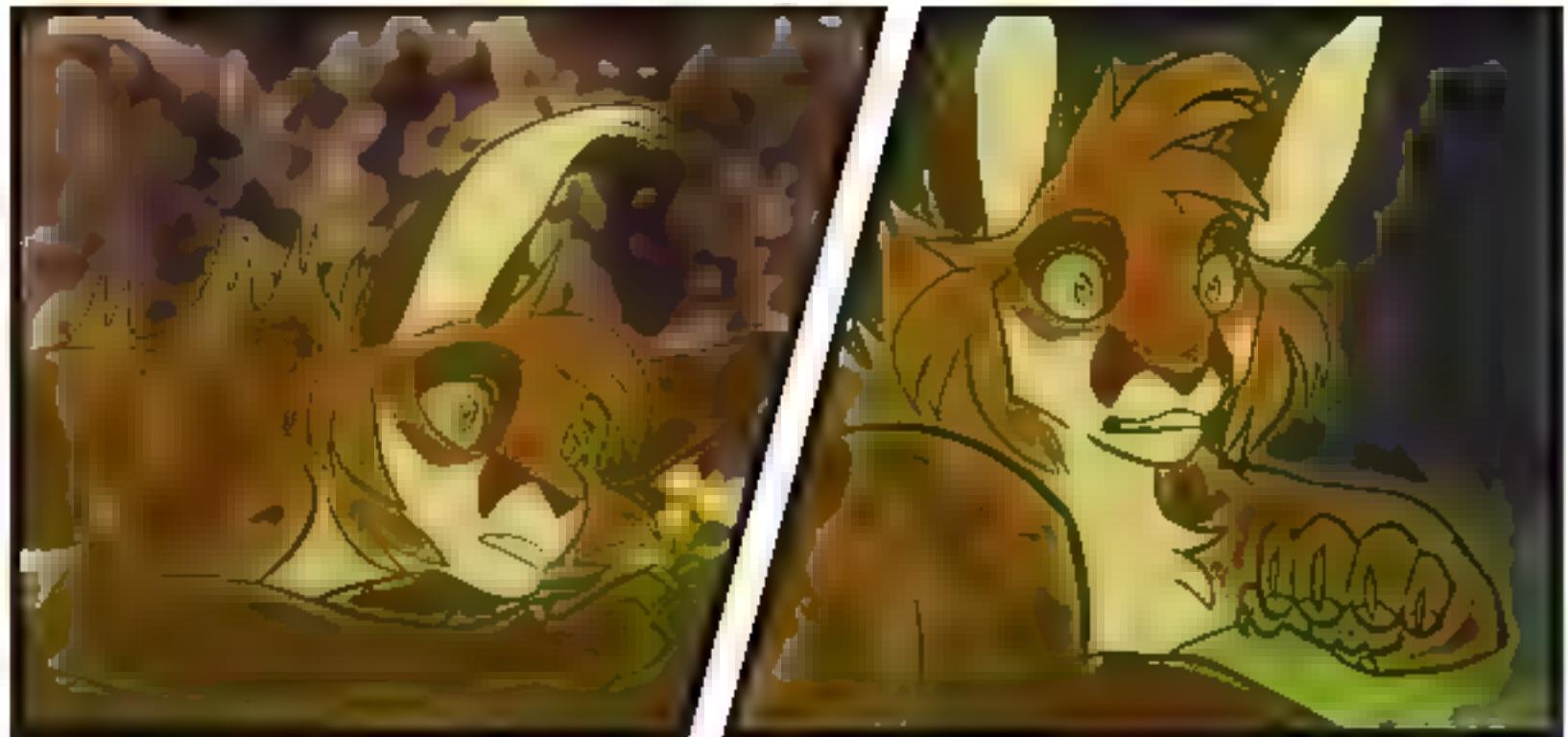


REDTAIL'S DEATH
WAS NOT IN VAIN.

FOR I DOUBT WE'LL
SEE RIVERCLAN ON OUR
TERRITORY AGAIN.





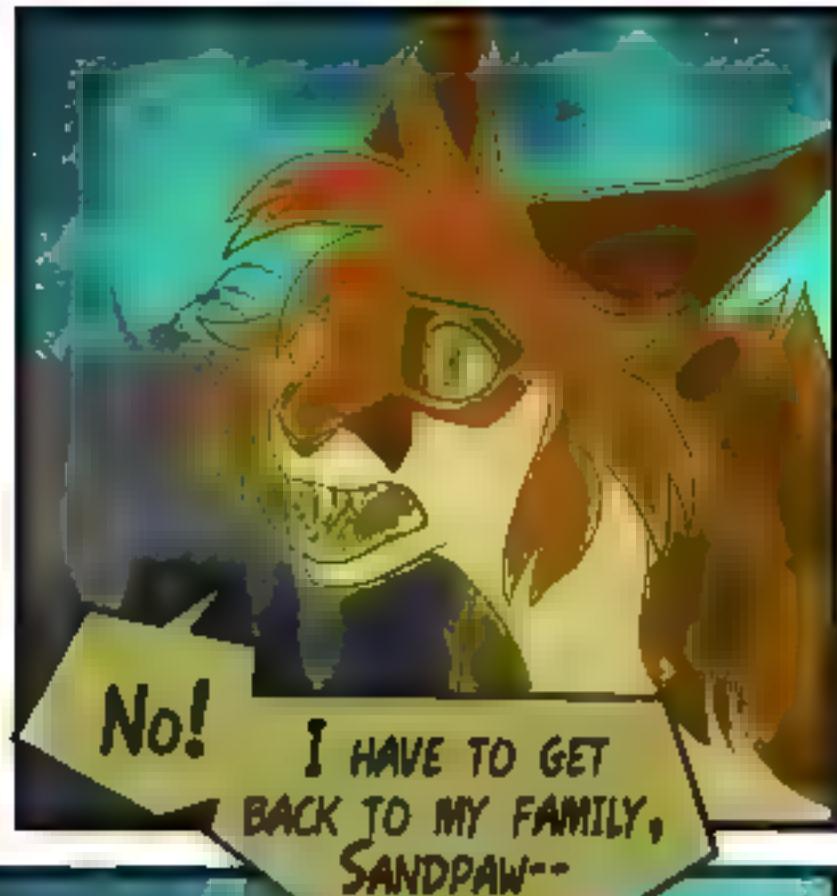
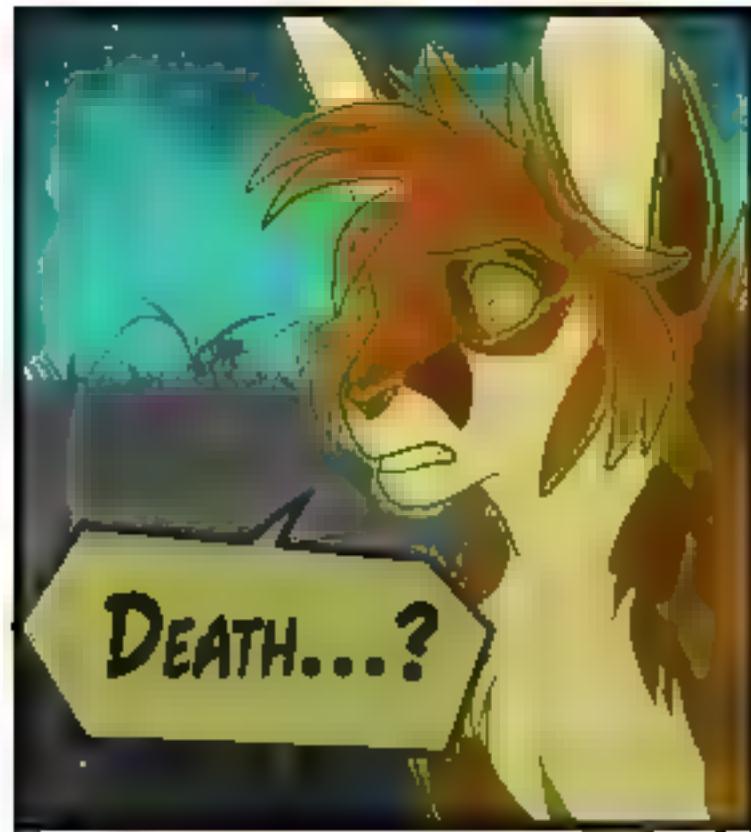




WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?



How could
you choose death
so easily?





I TOLD YOU!

I TOLD YOU TO
PROTECT THEM!



NOW BECAUSE
OF YOUR CHOICE,
THEY WILL DIE!



WHAT WAS I
SUPPOSED TO DO?

I CAN'T BEAT
TIGERCLAW!

NO ONE CAN!



THEY WILL.



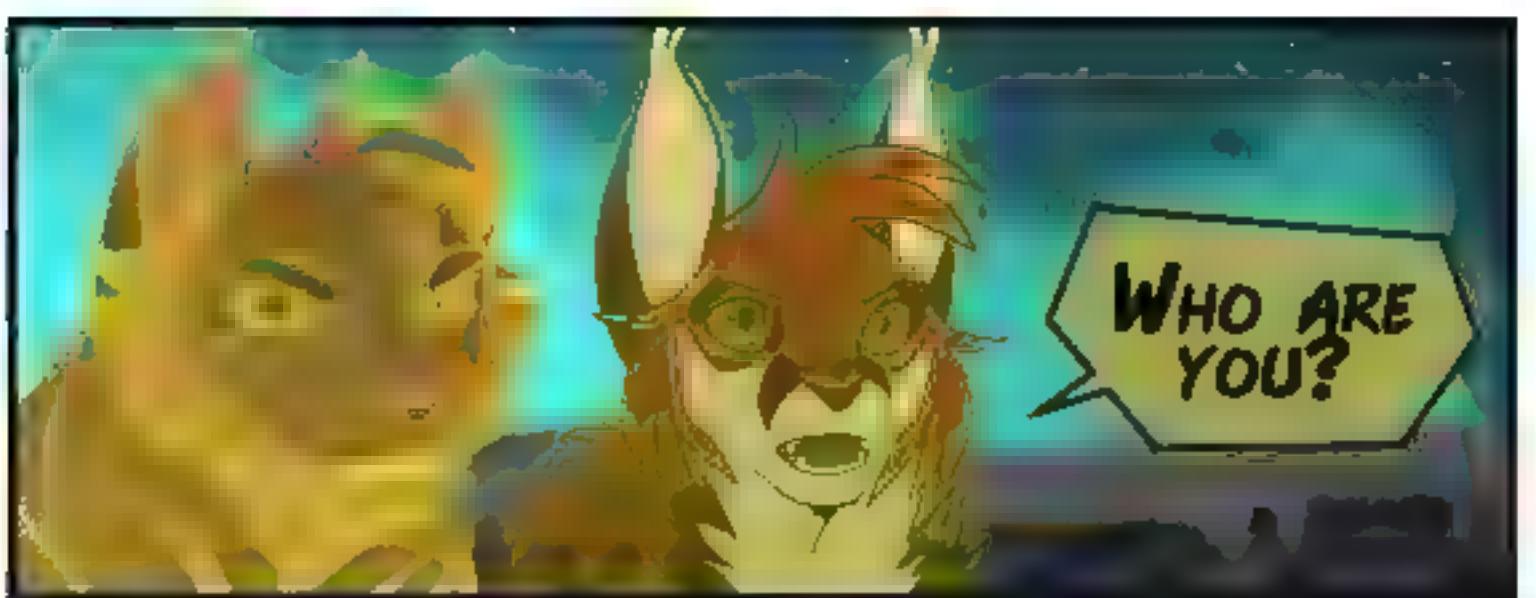
LISTEN.



WHAT DO WE
HAVE HERE?



**TWO LOST DEPUTIES
WITH A CHOICE TO
MAKE.**



**WHO ARE
YOU?**



YOU THINK
THEIR CLASS WILL LOSS,
DEAR OAKSHAW?

DO YOU REALIZE THE
COST OF THAT LOSS?



WHO WILL
PAY THAT PRICE?

HE HAS ALREADY
COLLECTED HIS DUES
FROM YOU.



WHOSE FAMILY WILL HE
PURSUE FIRST, I WONDER?

HOW WILL THEY
SURVIVE WITH NONE
TO WARN THEM?



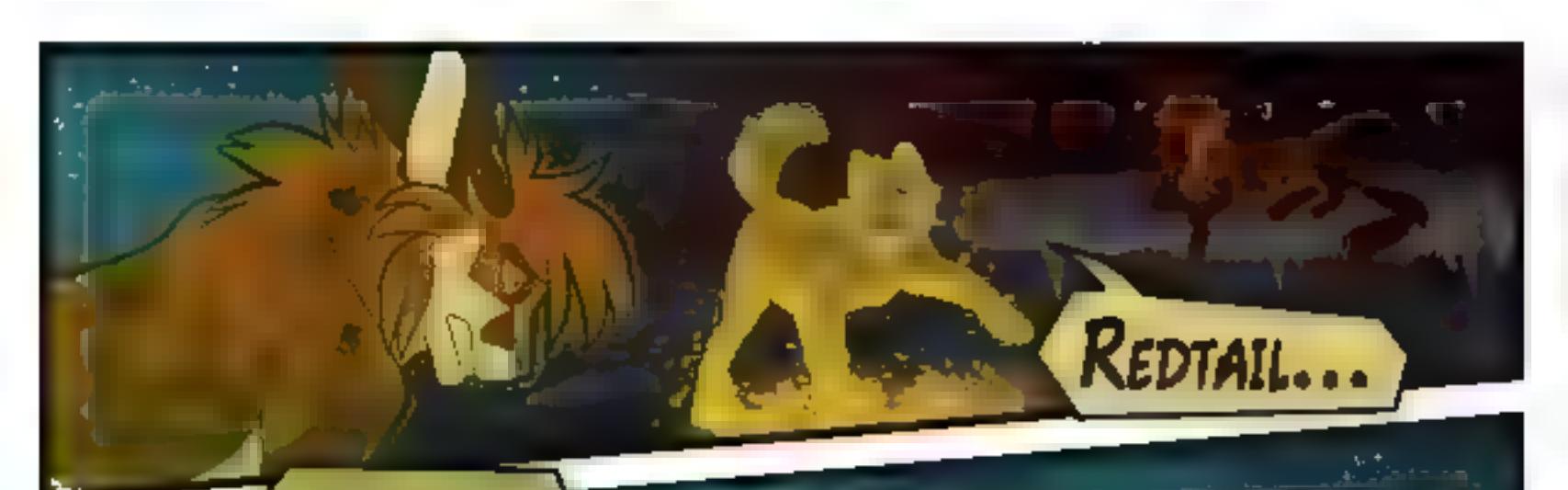
You...



STAY AWAY FROM US,
MONSTER! GO BACK TO YOUR
FOX HOLE AND STAY THERE!

You'll get
nothing from us!

This choice
is not entirely
yours, Oakheart.

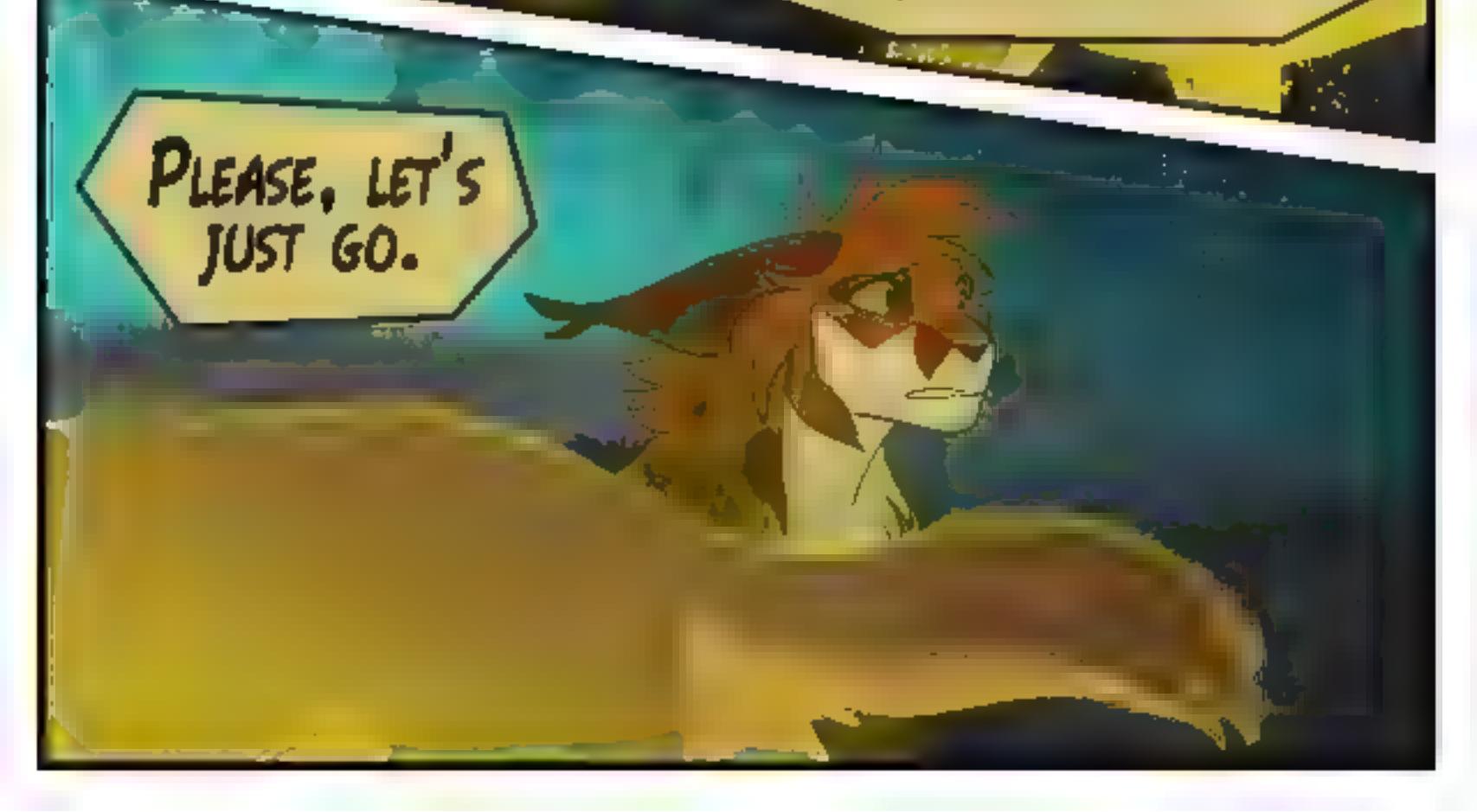


REDTAIL...

I, I CAN'T--
I CAN'T LEAVE
THEM ALONE WITH
TIGERCLAW, HE--



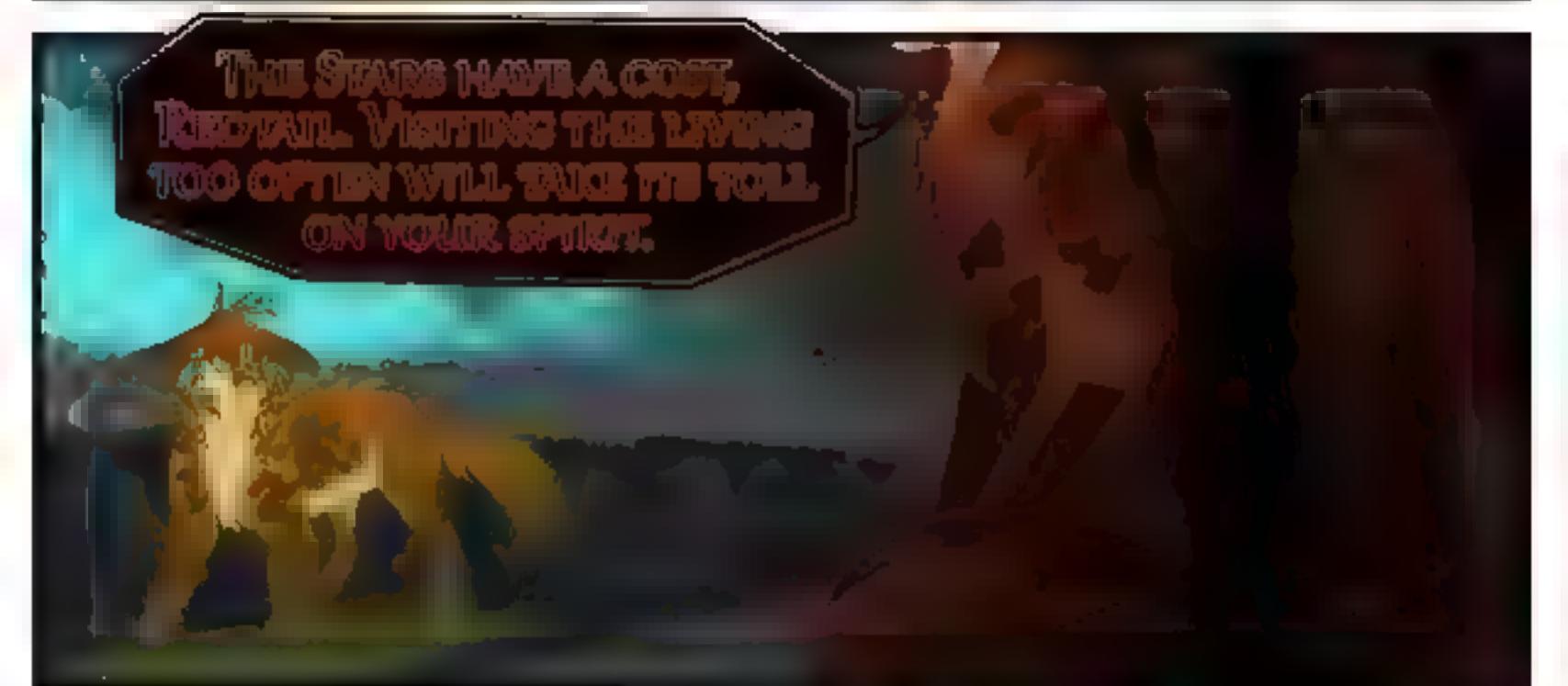
REDTAIL, YOU WON'T
HAVE A FAMILY LEFT IF YOU
LISTEN TO HER.



PLEASE, LET'S
JUST GO.



PERHAPS
HE'S RIGHT.



THE STARS HAVE A COST,
RED SKIN. VISITING THE LIVING
TOO OFTEN WILL TAKE ITS TOLL
ON YOUR SPIRIT.



BUT THEY
NEED YOU.



OH, HOW THEY
NEED YOU.



SANDPAW...

SHE'S STRONG,
SHE'LL--

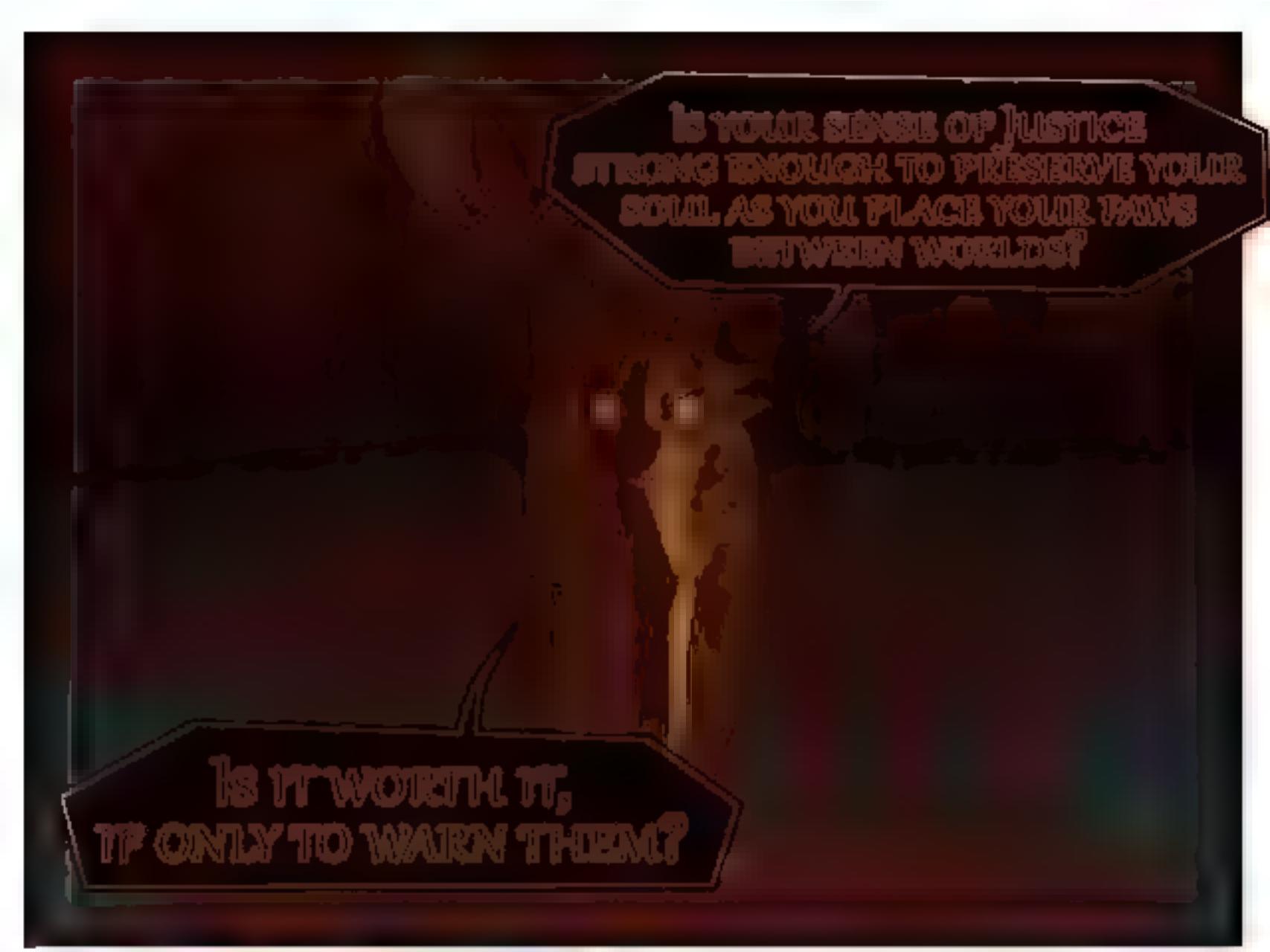


YOU THINK STRONGTH
OF HEALER WILL MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE
MOURS TO COME?



YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE.
YOU ABANDONED THEM.

But I CAN HELP
YOU SALVAGE YOUR
MISTAKE.



IS YOUR SENSE OF JUSTICE
STRONG ENOUGH TO PRESERVE YOUR
SOUL AS YOU PLACE YOUR HANDS
BETWEEN WORLDS?

IS IT WORTH IT,
TO ONLY TO WARN THEM?



THE STARS HAVE
THEIR OWN PLANS
FOR US.



THE STARS TOLD TIGERCLAW
HIS DESTINY WAS SET.



HE THOUGHT
HIS AGENCY LOST.



WE THOUGHT THE
STARS PERFECT GUIDES
FOR OUR LIVES.



BUT WHEN WAS THE
LAST TIME A STARCLAN
CAT SPOKE TO YOU?



...I'M SPEAKING TO
YOU RIGHT NOW, REDTAIL.



NO MATTER WHAT
OTHERS WANT, YOU DECIDE
YOUR OWN FATE.



I DON'T CARE ABOUT
PROPHECIES AND DESTINY.



I CARE ABOUT
MY FAMILY!
MY CLAN!



IF YOU WANT YOUR
FAMILY TO RECOGNIZE YOU
WHEN THEY SEE YOU AGAIN



WE'LL GO OUR
OWN WAY.
NOT HERS.



IT'S YOUR CHOICE, DEAR.

THUNDERCLAN AND RIVERCLAN
ARE LEADER FOR YOUR LOSSER.



I MERELY PRAY
FOR ALL OUR SAKES THAT
YOU BOTH CONTINUE TO
INFLUENCE THEM.



WHO WAS THAT?

...IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



WHAT DO WE
DO, REDTAIL?

OUR TIME IS
UP, BUT EVERYONE
IS STILL IN DANGER.



YOUR CLAN
AND MINE.

HOW DO WE
HELP THEM?



**FIRE ALONE WILL
SAVE OUR CLANS**



THEN WE BETTER
HELP START THE FIRE.

WARRIORS

REDTAIL'S CHOICE

